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THE
SOLICITUDES

OF
ABSENCE.

A GENUINE TALE.

Ad humum mærore gravi deducit et angit.

L O N D O N.

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MDCCLXXXVIII.

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4

MUSEUM
BRITAN
NICVM

- P. 9. l. 16; *for take heed of, read attend to.*
P. 68, and 74, l. 15 and 12; *for Celia, read Delia.*
P. 114, l. 20; *eraze the word, you.*
P. 202; *reverse the references to the notes.*
P. 260, l. 10; *for blift, read bleat.*
P. 286, l. 10; *for injufe, read refuse.*

TO THE

DUCHESS OF RUTLAND.

MADAM,

I BEG leave to dedicate to your Grace the memoirs that were once intended to wait on the Illustrious Personage to whom your Grace was united in the tenderest ties of human connection, and whose early departure has been so universally regretted.

Distinguished by every amiable sensibility, the commiseration of your Grace would not fail to alleviate the sorrows that have not been heightened by any fictitious detail, and which

might

iv DEDICATION.

might eventually terminate in the patronage I have no claim to solicit.

That your Grace, to whom Nature and Fortune have been equally bountiful, may derive every happiness from the attentions you were born to command, is the respectful prayer of,

Madam,

Your Grace's humble
and most obedient servant,

WILLIAM RENWICK.

TO

TO THE
BRITISH PARLIAMENT.

MY LORDS and GENTLEMEN,

FOR several years I have continued in the efforts apprehended to be founded in humanity and the welfare of the State. The publications submitted to your consideration have shown that, in a department of the public service the most solemn and respectable that can be conceived, no adequate encouragement is given for the obtainment of eligible officers, and that the admission of others must be productive of the most tragical events. This, my Lords and Gentlemen, is a natural consequence that needs no corroboration: and were its existence less apparent in the testimonies which have been adduced, you would still be of opinion that the servants who are so scarcely to be expected, though trusted to be many, have a claim to the rewards that are not provided for them.

A

The

The establishments which bear that appellation will be found to be equally elusive in the terms by which they are distinguished, and disgraceful to the sovereignty of a great and opulent empire. These consist in a *scanty* half pay to a *fourth-part* of the number on the list, with a superannuation no less trivial and remote. Hence those to whom limited appointment, or ceasing capacity, gives no further employ, retire after many years service without either. When this happens where domestic incumbrances are extensive, you will readily conceive the situations that require no description.—Such establishments are the more grievous, as they are not alleviated by the occasional promotions, or favorable arrangements, that occur in other naval departments.

In these considerations, my Lords and Gentlemen, it is natural to recollect the alarming complaint of a commander in chief after a general engagement, and the necessity of advertisements in which the continuing

continuing cause of that complaint was so unlikely to be removed. In domestic life, qualified servants are not expected without a sufficient compensation, nor the attendance of a physician in the rewards of an empiric.—The complaint referred to was recognized in a publication which obtained the thanks of the Board where the illustrious complainant then presided; and it has appeared on many subsequent occasions, that the most prevalent defects are not concentrated in the want of professional knowledge. These are the more to be regretted, as the compulsions of moral commanders have not always been found to preclude re-appointment. At the same time I am free to add that in the continuance of their origin, such defects must either be permitted, or the departments to which they appertain continue unoccupied. This would be the more likely to happen, did not the Board whose director is so deservedly continued, appear to have reserved the discretionary

power essential to the welfare of service, when impartially exerted with the discrimination that is necessary. No favorable incitement can ensue where seniority of service (which has otherwise a claim to precedence) is made the standard of merit; and to exclude the power of rewarding the latter at an earlier period, is equally unjust and impolitic. Hence the necessity of occasional recession from general rules; unless a mode of reward be adopted similar to the list mentioned by the noble Lord whose rhetorical pleasantry was on a late occasion so brilliantly displayed*.

To the want of due encouragements a veteran commander of high descent attributes the loss of several of his Majesty's ships in the last war. Surely, my Lords and Gentlemen, such a consideration must awaken every nerve which nature has given to feel for distress; and the more especially as the sacrifices adverted to are

* Lord Sandwich, on the superannuation of naval captains.

not the only misfortune to the community. The calamity is extended in the requisition of further supplies, and the augmented debt of the nation. I have formerly observed that it is better to prevent a disease, than to find out remedies for sustaining it.—In adverting to these circumstances it will not be regarded whether the corps of his Majesty's naval surgeons have the consequence from office allowed to *military* service; but how far they are respectable for the departments they are appointed to fill. The disparity I have noticed needs no comment. *

— Convinced, my Lords and Gentlemen, that the subject, in its various extension, is the most important that ever demanded the attention of Government, I still trust that the endeavors I continue to resume will be ultimately regarded. While you

* "That Surgeons in the Army should be commissioned officers, and in the Navy only warrant, is indeed a solecism."—Gentleman's Magazine.

are

are doing justice to the natives of a foreign clime, your fellow-citizens will not remain unredressed. And here, my Lords and Gentlemen, I beg leave to recommend to your serious perusal the *third* of the addresses I have had the honor to supply: in which I have taken the liberty to mention the provisions most likely to be favorable to a service that gives no promotion, and which will not be denied to the preservation of those who are the immediate protectors of their country—who bear the toil and burthen of the day. Suffer me, my Lords and Gentlemen, to transcribe a few passages from the publications by which the public voice is so generally determined.

Critical Review.—“ We have met our
 “ author frequently on the same occasion,
 “ and had an opportunity of bearing a
 “ chearful testimony to his good intentions. An addition to the rank of
 “ navy-surgeons, as well as a more adequate provision for those who are dismissed
 “ missed

“ missed from the service, would be highly
 “ advantageous to the public.”

Monthly Review. — “ Every humane
 “ reader must wish success to Mr. Ren-
 “ wick’s exertions in favour of seamen,
 “ navy-surgeons, and their widows. The
 “ zealous author here points out, more
 “ fully than in his two former addresses,
 “ the bad state of surgery on board our
 “ ships of war. Among other facts, Mr.
 “ Renwick does not forget a circum-
 “ stance that happened in the late war,
 “ which was truly disgraceful to this na-
 “ tion. He tells us, that the commander
 “ of one of our largest frigates represented
 “ to the captured enemy, the necessity he
 “ was under of requesting one of their
 “ surgeons to amputate the arm of his
 “ wounded lieutenant (now a captain); *his*
 “ *own surgeons not being qualified for the de-*
 “ *partment to which they were appointed!!!*
 “ What must have been the unhappy fate
 “ of those brave fellows the common sea-
 “ men, to whom such chirurgical assist-
 “ ance

“ance could not be given during the engagement? Mr. Renwick justly asks, ‘Who under such circumstances would enter as volunteers in the service?’—
 “He is fearful lest he should seem too fervent in pleading the cause of the common sailors; but the subject fully justifies the laudable zeal with which Mr. Renwick presses his solicitations; and we hope he will prove a successful advocate for that body of men, who are so essentially necessary to the defence of the nation.”

—Such are the criticisms to which I am obligated for the support they afford me: and I am the more hopeful of the success that is wished, as the encouragement that is necessary will in the general scale of disbursement add so little to the public expences, and eventually alleviate them.

Thus far, my Lords and Gentlemen, I have labored for the general good. Permit me now to present you with the private
 memoirs

memoirs to which I have formerly alluded. Whatever may be the situations they describe, it will not appear that their author has ever departed from the character he continues to esteem.—The sequel is in the womb of time, and only known to the Supreme Power whose eye superintends Creation and pervades Eternity !

Weary not, my Lords and Gentlemen, if I still detain you. I have professionally served my country in both the last and a former war, and been many years on the list which bears the title of half-pay : yet, from the narrowness of its extension, am neither in the receipt of such pay, nor any other pittance.—Reviewers have said, *The author has a claim to the gratitude of the British nation.* I will not plead that claim, because I want the patronage necessary to render it effectual ; but trust I shall be found to have deserved your protection.

W. R.

W. R.

E X O R D I U M.

*Boy, remove the mystic glasses,
Stream no more the rosy bowl;
While each year from Delia passes,
Neither can relieve my soul.*

*Fluttering like the waves of ocean,
Love within my bosom lies;
Throbs each vein with soft emotion,
Nor remits my pensive sighs.*

*Feather'd engine—dear deceiver
Of each lonely irksome hour;
Spread the tale, thou kind reliever,
And display thy wondrous power.*

*Haply, though no tale of fiction,
Nor in florid garb arrayed;
Piteous eye may wave the diction,
And impel the lingering aid.*

. Plaintive

*Plaintive while recurs each anguish,
Round me, Muses, spread your arms ;
Oh sustain me while I languish
In the flow of beauty's charms.*

THE

T H E
S O L I C I T U D E S
O F
A B S E N C E.

C H A P. I*.

THERE is no passage of Scripture more generally verified, than that the fortunes of mankind depend more on the favourable coincidence of fortuitous events, than on any claims of moral distinction. Hence the assertion that success is no criterion of desert; and the same commentators have observed that calamity consists not in the *quantity of evil*, but in the *sensibility of the sufferer*.

* A few pages contain, in varied detail, a summary of former memoirs; in which some poetical pieces are supplied that were then omitted.

The writer was originally designed for the pulpit; he received a profession less suited to his inclination. Naturally active, and in the opinion of his friends possessed of qualifications that were likely to command respect, they predicted the fortune he was not fated to attain; nor has the placidity that was more particularly ascribed to him, enabled him to meet the tempests of life with the serenity expected from it.

Susceptible of the tenderest attachments, and from a similitude of sentiment chiefly happy in the participation of female society, he became an early victim to impressions against the power of which no extent of virtue or philosophy can secure the human breast.

INSPIRATION.

Dear girls, in whose congenial strains I share
 The balm that softens every irksome care,
 (By bounteous nature and by heaven design'd
 To bless the intercourse of human kind)

SOLICITUDES OF ABSENCE. 3

With speed prepare (to cool the rage of skies)
The grateful beverage India's shrub supplies;
But oh, ye Fair, what beverage will restrain
The ruthless power that fevers every vein?

The fair object who gave occasion to the above verses, retained in the declension of parental circumstances the attractions of which Fortune could not deprive her. These were such as would have dignified the most illustrious station; and acquaintance produced the predilection that was fated to *realize* the fables of Romance.

ATTACHMENT.

Impress'd by beauty's powerful blaze,
On other females while I gaze
No anxious wish my bosom knows,
Nor with tumultuous passion glows:
But when the Fair whose love I'd prize
Beyond the crown a throne supplies,
Attention claims---through all my frame
Affection spreads the genial flame.

4 SOLICITUDES OF ABSENCE.

With nature's blush her cheeks disclose
The fairest tints the garden shows ;
Effulgent eyes and graceful mien
Proclaim her more than beauty's queen.
But these with less commotion wound
Than virtues in her temper found,
And sense that might with rapture warm
The breast where beauty fails to charm.
With her I could for ever dwell
Where moss sustains the rural cell :
Where-e'er she treads, more lustres rise
Than those the gilded dome supplies.

TO HENRY HODGSON, Esq;

" DEAR SIR, Plymouth, Aug. 29, 1760.

" Inclosed is a warrant for Mr. Renwick,
" to whom you will please to present my
" compliments; and at the same time ac-
" quaint him that you are his command-
" ing officer, and have a power to give
" him what leave of absence you think
" proper.

" Believe me to be, dear Sir, sincerely
" your's,

" JOHN CRAUFURD."

A few months after the receipt of the above letter, the writer (then nineteen years old) prepared to join the regiment in which he had been presented with a surgeon's mateship. On this occasion he found it difficult to leave the place where his happiness was centered without disclosing the passion which, at the same time, he wished to be in a more favourable situation before he ventured to communicate. After a painful struggle, in which the impetuosity of love and a regard for the welfare of its object alternately prevailed, he resolved to part from her on the score of friendship only.

THE ADIEU!

O were I yonder playful lamb
That sports around its milchy dam,
I'd never from the vallies stray
Where Delia breathes perpetual May :

Or where yon pendant branches wave
(What various shapes do lovers crave !)
Were I a bird, I'd tune my lay,
To cheer the nymph more fair than May.

6 SOLICITUDES OF ABSENCE.

Propitious Powers, reward my prayer !
With such esteem inspire the Fair ;
And to my arms the girl convey
Whose charms transcend the charms of May.

The poetical appellation in the foregoing verses being the name originally supplied, is now retained instead of the substitution occasioned by a mistake that was apprehended to be immaterial. In the *prosaic* correspondence, no fictitious signatures are adopted. The objections of criticism to the eligibility of those that appeared in former memoirs, were esteemed too trifling to be regarded ; the mistress of Romeo in the play having naturally exclaimed,

“What’s in a name? That which we call a rose,
“By any other name would smell as sweet.”

DEPARTURE

SOLICITUDES OF ABSENCE.

D E P A R T U R E.

Farewell the fields and sylvan plains
Life's early years where blest I spent ;
Where, ere I felt love's ardent pains,
Each hour revolv'd in soft content ;
Me fortune's frowns far hence compel :
My native fields and plains, farewell !

How oft with morn's returning dawn,
When genial rays renew'd the spring,
I've stray'd through yonder verdant lawn,
Where tuneful birds were heard to sing !
Now distant climes my steps impel :
To native fields and plains, farewell !

No more within yon fragrant bower,
Where cowslips glisten o'er the vale,
Shall slumber sooth the noon-tide hour,
While round me sigh'd the tranquil gale :
Such bliss for me no more remains :
Farewell, my native rural plains !

SOLICITUDES OF ABSENCE.

Yet though I must far hence retire,
Each day within yon flowery grove,
While plaintive lays awake the lyre,
Shall Fancy still excursive rove;
Still eye the fields which first I knew:
My native plains and *friends*, adieu!

C H A P. II.

IT is easier to conceive than delineate the writer's inquietude, when he found himself at the distance of six hundred miles from the object who continued to engross his attention.—She had told him, when taking his leave of her, she would be always glad to hear of his welfare. He took up the pen to acquaint her of his arrival at the end of his journey, and found he was disclosing the passion he wished to conceal. He consigned to friendship another sheet of paper, but love was a more powerful regent in his breast. His letter contained the language of sincerity, but it was too plaintive for the subject to
which

which he intended to confine himself. He ceased to persevere; and sighing, wished for the possession of opulence and empire.

Six months had elapsed when the division of the regiment with which he was quartered, was ordered to the siege of Belleisle. The scenes of war and continued absence promised to drown the remembrance of the object he was unwilling, yet found it necessary to forget; but in vain did he strive to resume a serenity he was destined *never again to enjoy*.

P A S T O R A L.

RECITATIVE.

Ye shepherds, take heed of the Fair
 Whose merits I love to display;
 Believe me she's worthy your care,
 And lovely as landscapes in May.
 Each grace in her aspect is seen,
 The loves are enthron'd in her eyes;
 Her presence can phrenzy serene,
 And her converse elysium supplies.

A. I. R.

Warblers, tune the vocal alley

Where she seeks the rural shade;

Sweetest flowret of the valley

Nature paints the *mental* maid.

Kindly, Fortune, smile around her,

May her bosom ne'er know pain;

Every grateful charm surround her,

—Fairest virgin of the plain.

Towards the end of the campaign in which he had lost his health and his eyesight, the writer returned to England on leave of absence. On this occasion the commander to whom his demeanor had served to recommend him, wrote to one of his friends in the following terms:—

“ Poor Renwick is gone home with the
 “ loss of sight in both his eyes. I will
 “ endeavour to procure him a pension from
 “ Government, to enable him to live
 “ with comfort among his friends; if it
 “ should

“ should not please God to favor his recovery.”

Had Providence been pleased to prolong the life of this benevolent patron, the present and former memoirs had probably never been composed; but the period of his existence was too short to accomplish the services he wished to render*.

C H A P. III.

ON the writer's arrival at the place from which he had been near two years absent, the object of his solitudes came (unconscious of her power) to express her concern for his situation. He felt the animating influence of her presence; and on her retiring, relapsed into a languor which it was not in the aid of medicine to alleviate. The renewal of her visits had a

* “ General Craufurd was a man of honor, and the friend of human nature.”

greater tendency to effectuate his recovery; nor was he able again to remove himself without making that declaration by letter which his lips had repeatedly attempted in vain, and in which he experienced the truth of the following quotation.

“ Not the serpent in the path, nor the
 “ lion from the thicket, nor the glittering
 “ of the sword, nor the thunder of the can-
 “ non, are half so terrible to the generous
 “ heart, as is the first approach unto the
 “ woman whom it loveth. If he address
 “ thee with elegance---if his words are
 “ chosen and his periods graceful---hasten
 “ from his presence; for know he is a de-
 “ ceiver: it is not love that inspireth
 “ him. Wit dwelleth in the heart that is
 “ at rest, and gay description reigneth
 “ only where love has no dominion.—But
 “ if he faulter in his utterance; if diffi-
 “ dence bridleth his tongue, and heartfelt
 “ confusion deny the use of the words that
 “ would

" would describe it ; be assured he loveth thee."

Such was the writer's condition in the fruitless efforts that ultimately obliged him to say with Ovid,

Dicere quid puduit, scribere jussit amor.

—As diffidence is ever in proportion to the extent of attachment, he was only to be satisfied with the most direct confession of reciprocal esteem. In this obtainment he intended to wait till circumstances were sufficiently favorable for the consummation of his wishes ; but whatever reason he had to trust the fidelity that was promised, he was on this occasion particularly fearful of the uncertainty of human events, and the disappointments attendant on procrastination. On the other hand he was not insensible to the prudential advice which, as a moral writer, has since been frequently the subject of his own periodical lucubrations.—Meanwhile the confession he has mentioned increased the ardor of
the

the flame by which he was consumed;
and his friends had still reason to assert,

Ægrotat animo, magis quam corpore.

During the inquietude occasioned by contending resolutions, he absented himself from the Fair who on his return gave him to understand she had determined never to change her condition. *Such* was the termination of an interview he had with difficulty obtained; and which, after a sleepless night, occasioned him to communicate his anxiety in terms that produced the subsequent curtailed reply.

“ S I R,

“ You might have been less severe in
“ your expressions until you were assured I
“ deserved them. You call me cruel and
“ ungrateful: it is not in my nature to be
“ either.—If my injunctions have any
“ force with you, let Reason reassume her
“ throne; and be again the merry con-
verfable

"verfable companion you were wont to
"be.

"ABIGAIL HINDMARCH."

The reader will anticipate the reconciliation of which the foregoing letter was productive. The union fo ardently wished for was, however, postponed till the arrival of a more favorable season. Meanwhile the commander to whom he had written on the subject, desired the writer not to be uneasy for the fate of the regiment; as half-pay was secured for him. The satisfaction derived from this information was but of short continuance; succeeding circumstances evincing that no such provision was made.

The regiment being returned to England, and his attendance required, the writer went to take the adieu that was found too reciprocally painful to be renewed. It was therefore, as well as to continue the suspension that was necessary, resolved not to meet again *till it would be no longer requisite to part.*

As

As o'er the plains with pensive eye
 I cast a lingering view,
 My bosom heav'd the wonted sigh,
 And cry'd—Sweet Fair, adieu !

C H A P. IV.

ON his arrival in town, the writer found that the Peace had already occasioned the reduction he had anticipated. He waited on the General; who represented his obligation to transfer the appointment to which he had formerly alluded, and his intention of applying for a commission to the Secretary at War.

To General CRAUFURD.

" DEAR SIR, War-Office, June 8, 1763.

" I have received your application in
 " relation to Mr. William Renwick for
 " a pair of colours. I hope you will do
 " me the justice to believe that I should
 " be happy to pay all possible regard to
 " your recommendation; but his Majesty
 " hath

" hath not as yet departed from what the
 " House of Commons have recommended
 " in favor of half-pay officers, and there-
 " fore it is not *at present* in my power to
 " serve you in this instance. The time
 " may come when this rule will cease to
 " be so pressing; but this is the minute of
 " reduction.

" I have the honor to be, with the
 " greatest regard, dear Sir, your most
 " humble and most obedient servant,

" W. ELLIS."

The General, after presenting him with
 the above letter, advised the writer to re-
 turn to his friends in the country till the
 meeting of Parliament, and to draw on
 him for any supplies he might in the
 mean time have occasion for.

The reader will here recollect the mu-
 tual determination at the writer's last de-
 parture from the place where his friends
 resided. He therefore, as well as for ano-
 ther obvious reason, proposed to employ
 him-

himself in town. This met the General's approbation; who drew his purse to manifest the liberality of which a natural disinclination to be troublesome, induced the writer to decline the acceptance.

It was not long after when this military commander went to join his new regiment at Minorca; where his early decease terminated the writer's dependance on one of the most respectable characters the world has ever produced.

ADDRESS TO SLEEP.

Come, balmy sleep, and to my soul
 Restore its former rest;
 Dispel the gloomy thoughts that roll
 Within my pensive breast.

In thee the slave forgets his chains,
 Nor for lost freedom pines;
 The love-sick swain from anxious pains
 A short releasement finds.

Come,

Come, gentle god, and close mine eyes ;
That midst thy pleasing sway,
I may a-while suspend my sighs,
My tears be wip'd away.

Restore my DELIA to my arms ;
With rapture let me gaze
On looks that vie with summer's charms,
And Sol's refulgent rays.

O'er flowery lawn and verdant mead,
Where balmy zephyrs play,
And bleating lambs around us feed,
May we together stray :

Or underneath some myrtle shade,
Where lurk no envious spies,
Soft on the verdant turf be laid,
While love our theme supplies.

Those tender strains still may I hear
From her soft lips that fell,
When trembling with a lover's fear,
I bade the nymph farewell.

Since

Since waking I am ne'er at rest,
 But endless grief sustain;
 If thus in thee I can be blest,
 Ne'er let me wake again.

To Mr. R*****.

Berwick, Oct. 21, 1763.

“ Faithfullest of men ! most constant of
 “ your sex ! my friend ! my lover !—or
 “ if there be any gentler appellations, teach
 “ my grateful heart and I will call you by
 “ them—why still distrust the attachment
 “ of which I have given you such con-
 “ vincing manifestations. I would not
 “ resign my claim to your esteem, to
 “ receive the hand of the richest lord in
 “ the kingdom.

“ My greatest fears are that I shall never
 “ be able to pay the debt of love I owe
 “ you. If all the services of my future
 “ life can in any degree compensate the
 “ anxieties I have occasioned, it shall ever
 “ be

" be my study to please and to make you
" happy.

" A. H."

A B S E N C E.

My heart it was ever elate

When the hours with my Delia were spent;
I envied not monarchs their fate,
Nor crowns could without her content.

No flower that the landscape array'd
With the bloom of her cheeks could compare;
Nor the beauties Aurora display'd,
Were equal to those of my fair.

Her presence enliven'd each scene,
Made summer for ever appear;
But since from my sight she has been,
'Tis winter throughout the whole year*.

To Miss HINDMARCH.

London, Dec. 24, 1764.

" We parted not to meet till we need
" part no more: shall I venture to return

* The last stanza is a substitution for those omitted
in the original.

" where

“ where I shall again participate the grate-
 “ ful intercourse that formerly rendered
 “ me so happy? Mr. Hodgson bids me
 “ trust the assurances. * * * * *

“ * * * * *

“ * * * * *

“ W. R.”

To Mr. RENWICK.

“ S I R, London, Jan. 14, 1765.

“ I have received your very obliging and
 “ polite letter, and am sorry to hear your
 “ passage was so disagreeable. I am sure
 “ my brother will always be ready to ac-
 “ knowledge the protection you have
 “ given to his cause, and I shall be always
 “ ready to shew my gratitude to the same.
 “ —I congratulate you on your safe ar-
 “ rival; and having sympathized with
 “ you in the fatigue of your voyage, like-
 “ wise participate with you in the pleasure
 of

" of landing, and in the complete victory
" such an event must have occasioned.

" I am, Sir, your obliged friend and
" humble servant,

" * * *

After eighteen months further absence,
the writer was again in sight of the Fair
from whom he had resolved no more to
separate, and expectation nurtured with
credulity.

THE TRIUMPH OF LOVE.

When we alone for *beauty* feel
The anxious pains we prove,
Reflection may each wish repeal
Where fate forbids to love ;
But where the *mental* charms conspire
With beauty to inflame,
Reason, to quench the ardent fire,
Applies her aid in vain.
My Delia both so much enjoys,
Both so resplendent shine ;
Whate'er succeed the nuptial ties,
I must secure her mine.

HYME-

HYMENÆAL.

Sweet rural month, celestial May !
Refulgent every grove display,
Give Nature all her charms ;
Ye warblers, raise each vocal power,
To consecrate the genial hour
That gives me Delia's arms.

Serenely flow the murmuring deep,
Be every tempest lull'd to sleep
The plain where Delia trips ;
Blow soft, ye zephyrs, o'er the vale,
And from each flower perfume the gale
That breathes on Delia's lips.

Attune, ye swains, each pastoral lyre ;
Her voice will all your lutes inspire,
And aid the rapturous lay ;
The lambs that crop the daisy'd mead,
Will with their dams forget to feed,
And join in fleecy play.

At

At her approach the bounding fawn
Exultive skims the verdant lawn,

The birds in concert sing ;
The vallies glow with vivid dyes,
Each shrub with fragrance fills the skies,
And Beauty crowns the Spring !

Oh haste, my Fair ! make no delay ;
The birds already crowd the spray,
To greet you with their song :
Impatience throbs in every vein,
Where streams of love intense the pain
The lingering rites prolong.

Ye virgins, strew with flowers the way
Where Delia gilds the Eastern day,
And blooms the spreading thorn ;
While shepherds o'er the lawn advance,
To mingle in the mazy dance,
And hail the festive morn*.

* The stanzas " by a friend," formerly inserted, being now disapproved of ; the Author of the Memoirs has taken the liberty to substitute those avowed to be of his own fabrication.

C H A P. V.

THAT union is now formed which death only can dissolve. If the lovers have been too precipitate, the sympathizing reader will esteem them to be more unfortunate than reprehensible. Had the acquisition of a moderate competence accompanied the nuptial ceremony, their blifs would have been complete; but it appears to have ever been fated that the alliances which nature has formed to furnish the greatest felicity, should from the adversity of fortune be rendered the most unhappy.

Several weeks having elapsed without the intelligence he had been made to expect, it was recommended to the writer to accelerate the necessary attention by a personal attendance in town.

To Mrs. R*****.

London, June 29, 1765.

“ The post of last night will communi-
 “ cate my arrival where the noise and tu-
 “ mult

"mult that prevail, incline me the more
 "to that solitude after which I have al-
 "ways, since my attachment to my dear
 "Abby, so ardently languished. I have
 "this evening transmitted to Lincolnshire
 "the recommendations I brought with
 "me, and hope to receive an answer in
 "the course of the ensuing week. Mean-
 "while you will trust the assurances that
 "were never more to be credited than at
 "the present hour.

"W. R."

The answer mentioned in the above letter desired the writer to point out in what manner he might be served, and in the mean time not to neglect any thing of which he could avail himself.

To Mr. R*****.

Berwick, Dec. 2, 1765.

"I am much obliged to you for the
 "good advice you give me. I read it
 "with that pleasure which conscious in-

"nocence never fails to inspire. My conduct, since you left me, has been such as I flatter myself will not be found to deserve your censure.

"Tell me if there be yet any prospect of your soon returning to the arms of your disconsolate Abby? How many ages of anxiety have passed since cruel fortune—but why do I call Fate cruel? It is the will of that Providence to which it is our duty to submit. Be not therefore over-anxious for the situation in which you wish me to be placed; lest it injure the health I deem more valuable than all the treasures of the Eastern world.—I have been accounted ambitious. It is true I have got some sparks of that flame in my breast; but they are such only as *you inspire*. The greatest ambition I have is to enjoy, and be esteemed deserving of your love.

"ABIGAIL R*****."

The

The writer having at length obtained the interview that brought him to town, was informed that as it was found impracticable to render him any services, *it would not be necessary for him to have the trouble of calling again.*

C H A P. VI.

THE writer's feelings on the receipt of the above laconic dismissal, are not in the description of language. Patience and fortitude seem, in speculation, virtues that may easily be called in to human assistance; but the unfortunate, however sensible of their utility, too frequently find it impossible to reduce such theory to practice. Nature will be too powerful for art; and the Stoic who denied pain to be an evil, could not refrain from showing himself sensible of its tortures.

The writer's anxiety on this occasion was rendered the less endurable, from the object of his solicitude's being now charged

with the offspring to the support of which it was so little in his power to contribute.

Bine baccho et cerere friget venus.

To Mr. R*****.

Berwick, July 5, 1766.

" I trust this will find you in better
 " health than you appeared to be in the
 " last letter I received from you. If my
 " petitions to the throne of Heaven have
 " been acceptable, I am sure you *must*;
 " to hear of which will give me the great-
 " est pleasure this world can bestow.—To
 " know that your indisposition proceeded
 " from any anxiety on my account, would
 " make me very unhappy. Let me there-
 " fore conjure you, as you regard the
 " tranquility you wish me, to make your-
 " self as easy as possible. Nothing can
 " contribute more to render me resigned
 " to my own fate.

" I am happy to find I have not lost my
 " lover in my husband; and would circum-
 " stances

“stances enable us to *live together*, I should
 “not envy others the most exalted station.
 “The humblest cottage in your society,
 “would be preferred to the splendor of a
 “court in your absence.

“A. R.”

CONJUGAL EFFUSIONS.

No more to leave, could war restore

The Fair whose absence I deplore,

I'd haste to wield the pointed spear,

Nor hostile plains nor seas would fear;

No walls so high but I'd ascend,

Life's future hours with her to spend.

With her I could exultive go

Where winter's gales for ever blow;

Traverse each day the dreary clime

Where solar rays but seldom shine;

Where tempests ever snow the ground,

And all is wild and waste around.

" To Mr. R*****.

" Berwick, Nov. 24, 1766.

" You do me great injustice in thinking
 " I had forgot you because I have not
 " wrote to you for some weeks past. I can
 " call Heaven to witness that I never loved
 " you more ardently than since cruel
 " fortune tore you from my arms.

" I can never cease to love one so much
 " superior in every respect to myself, and
 " in whose alliance I am so much honored.
 " I am fully convinced you might have
 " obtained a competent fortune in the en-
 " deavors by which the proudest heart and
 " the coldest affections must have been
 " subdued; but you could not have given
 " your hand where you would have been
 " more ardently esteemed. I could cheer-
 " fully leave my native home and those
 " who were formerly most dear to me, to
 " follow you to the remotest corner of the
 " world.

" A. R."

C H A P.

C H A P. VII.

UNWILLING to involve the amiable partner of his fortune in the miseries of a growing family for which he was unable to provide, the writer continued to deny himself the return he so ardently desired; and in the hope of some favorable vicissitude, sought a temporary support in the resumption of services for which the state of his mind so much disqualified him. Two years had passed in these endeavors when, in consequence of such inquietude, he became no longer capable of retaining his employment. As soon as his health would permit, he again resumed his situation with a surgeon in the country.

A FAREWELL TO LONDON.

Would Fate, propitious to my prayer, assign
The grateful hours that I would chuse were mine,
Within the confines of some peaceful grove,
(The soft retreats of innocence and love !)

Remote

Remote from courts and palaces I'd live,
And share the joys sequester'd life can give.
Let others sigh for pageantry and state,
And prove the tumults that surround the great;
Where vice prevails be anxious to reside,
And share each scene of luxury and pride:
Could I with Delia tread the sylvan plain,
Where purer joys and softer pleasures reign;
Possess'd of Fortune's gifts, not made too high,
But just as much as would our wants supply;
I'd envy not the greatest prince his fate,
Nor for a throne exchange my happier state.

It was subsequent to the above period that the writer contemplated the publication of which he wished to avail himself. At the same time he could not but be sensible that the children of calamity have but little to hope for in a world where so few are disposed to regard the moral tenor of their lives, and where the incitements to virtue are only to be placed in the

the reward that is supposed to lie beyond the regions of the grave*.

To Mr. R*****.

Berwick, July 14, 1768.

" I do not approve of the publication you
 " mention. The letters we have written
 " to each other are perhaps too tender and
 " passionate to be relished by any but those
 " who have experienced the same sen-
 " sations and distress. I also fear for the
 " resentment that might prove too power-
 " ful for one in your situation to contend
 " with. The force of truth is not always
 " superior to the powers of affluence, and

* " Tyrant as Henry the VIIIth was, he died
 " peaceably a natural death ; while Henry the VIth
 " (the most harmless of all monarchs) was de-
 " throned, imprisoned, and assassinated. It is a
 " folly and a wickedness to say that good or bad
 " actions are their own recompence here. True is
 " the doctrine of holy writ: the wicked have their
 " good things in *this* life—the virtuous must look
 " for them in another."

LORD LITTLETON.

“ the unfortunate have but seldom the
“ world on their side.

“ A. R.”

C H A P. VIII.

SUSPENDING the intention he was afterwards constrained to pursue, the writer endeavoured to amuse some of the hours that proved so lingering, in a correspondence with the London prints; to which he was encouraged in the respectful acknowledgements for contributions that were sometimes copied into the monthly miscellanies. The moral essays he afterwards published in the latter repositories were numerous; and he is free to confess that the approbation of a sex in whose cause he has ever been a faithful advocate, was not without its grateful influence. How far they were pleased to extend such approbation, will appear in the subsequent address from the pen of a Female into whose hands he wishes these sheets may happen to fall, and of whose welfare he
should

should be glad to be informed.—He is the more gratified in the compliments adverted to, because the respectable lady whose character he had the honor to defend, manifested her superior claim to such eulogies; while her correspondence was enlivened by the animated sensibility so endearing in amiable dispositions, and so grateful to sentimental intercourse. It is in the society of such pre-eminent individuals, that the pleasures of life are most extensively exalted and its calamities alleviated; and the writer readily avows he had rather pass an hour in the company of his fair correspondent, than sit down to the most luxurious banquet that ever distinguished the Egyptian-hall of Augusta's mansion-house.

TO THE MORALIST.

“S I R,

“Encouraged by your invitation, and
“promise of stretching forth your potent
“arm to assist the distressed and helpless
“Fair,

“ Fair, I presumed to give you an oppor-
“ tunity of displaying that native goodness
“ which runs so sweetly through every line
“ of your most agreeable essays.
“ Your impartiality in listening to both
“ parties, and the readiness with which you
“ exert the abilities bestowed on you by
“ nature and education in redressing grie-
“ vances to which human nature is liable,
“ call aloud for the grateful acknowledge-
“ ment of those in whose cause you so
“ generously interest yourself. And what-
“ ever illiberal reflections may be thrown
“ out against the Moralist by persons void
“ of the sensations which generous minds
“ are capable of, you must, Sir, for ever be
“ esteemed by all who are possessed of
“ gratitude, or even the smallest degree
“ of common sense ; as the chief aim at
“ which your agreeable essays evidently
“ tend, is to reform the errors and *faus*
“ *pax* of others, while at the same time
“ instruction and entertainment hang on
“ every line.

“ You

" You needed not have been under any
 " terror lest I should have fallen under the
 " misfortune of being tongue-tacked. This
 " is a disease which is seldom found to
 " affect my sex; and while I was called
 " upon by the *Moralist*, I should have for-
 " feited all title or claim to the character
 " of a *Female* had I remained mute.

" MATILDA."

" To Mrs. R*****.

" The inclosed verses originated in a jo-
 " cular occasion; to which I have added the
 " prologue I was lately solicited to write
 " for a more serious purpose.

ELEGY. ADDRESSED TO LINUS.

With magic power dramatic bards engage,
 When skilful actors animate the stage.
 The sullen here forget each fractious grief,
 And pensive spirits find a soft relief;
 When laughter loud the comic muse excites,
 Or tragic tale in mournful strains delights.

Here

40 SOLICITUDES OF ABSENCE.

Here the sad lover whom hard fate attends,
His eyes, his ears, with pleas'd attention lends;
As soothing sympathy thrills through his veins,
While Juliet mourns, or Romeo complains.

When late the princess bless'd this village-hill
For whom so oft you juniper'd the still,
The paleful visage radiant to restore
When each theatric martyrdom was o'er;
We wont each eve with Otway to repair
The drama's rant and vivid feats to share.
With loud encore each varied act was crown'd:
The thatched barn absorb'd the grateful sound.
Not *Drury's* daughters could, you cry'd, excell
Where both the Finches play'd their parts so well:
While o'er the boards as rosier nymphs appear'd,
Our cares were drown'd and all our senses cheer'd.

Hail happy time while here the princess stay'd,
And various charms to all around display'd!
How heavy will the lingering hours roll on,
Since the dear girl in whom we liv'd is gone.
Say, shall we mutually our skill employ,
And strive to heal those ills our hearts annoy?
Ah no!—even great Apollo once did prove
The powers of med'cine were no cure for love.

To

To quench his hopeless flame no drugs avail'd,
And his own art the god of physic fail'd.

Come, Linus (lor'd in a' that Brookes contains)
We'll seek some cave where melancholy reigns;
Where far-resounding echo list'ning lies,
And every gloom the dreary waste supplies.
Come, Linus, quit the mortar's baneful clang,
And all the terms of physical harangue:
To pills and potions bid a long farewell;
The streams of life leave others to repell.
From yonder steep whose cliffs the waves assail,
We'll meet oblivion in the surgy vale.

In distant time some gentle poet may
Transcribe our fates into a tragic play:
My friend some future Romeo may shine,
Some new Castalio's part may then be mine.
Then will be shown, in high theatric pride,
How two fond youths for brown Roxana dy'd:
The Fair may then perhaps the piece approve,
And pity those who left the world for love.

VERSES *spoken before a PLAY performed for
the benefit of the POOR.*

The wants of adverse fortune to supply,
And wipe the tear from each lamenting eye;

To

42 SOLICITUDES OF ABSENCE.

To ease the heart oppress'd with anxious care,
And calm the sorrows which the wretched share;
From heavenly climes, for these benevolent ends,
Celestial charity to-night descends!
The gentlest maid that dwells in realms above;
Whose smiles diffuse benignity and love.

Severe the hardships which the industrious poor
At this bleak season of the year endure;
When cold and want surround their homely board,
And hard-wrought labors scanty meals afford.
How tense must prove the indulgent mother's pain,
To hear her children cry for food in vain;
Nor less anxiety the father shares,
Who feels in husband—parent—all their cares.

When scenes like these your tender pity raise,
The virtues of the mind it sure displays:
Let then our purport consecrate the deed,
And from your virtues let applause proceed.

A SUMMER MIDNIGHT.

Where awful silence reigns around,
From yonder lone sequester'd tower,
The village clock with doleful sound
Proclaims the tranquil midnight hour.
The

The slave, condemn'd by adverse fate
 Beneath laborious toils to groan,
 Has now forgot his abject state,
 Nor feels the pains so lately known.

No tempests shake the peaceful skies;
 In gentle showers descending rain,
 To green the fields with heaven's supplies,
 Beats murmuring o'er the sylvan plain.

Along the heath the balmy breeze
 Sighs soft, and sooths the love-sick breast;
 Or whispering through the waving trees,
 Relulls the cottage-swain to rest:

Who rises chearful with the sun,
 Unknown to life's consuming woes;
 And when his rural task is done,
 Reliqns himself to sound repose.

(O happy state! where each desire
 In full fruition meets content;
 Where no refin'd delights inspire,
 And no unsated powers are lent).

The

The soft-thrill'd songstress of the night,
 Whose plaintive notes harmonious flow;
 Till orient skies disclose their light,
 Resumes the story of her woe.

Sweet bird, with you I'll join the strain
 That pensive warbles through the dale;
 With you, sweet bird, till morn complain,
 While nature sighs to hear my tale.

To Mr. R*****.

Berwick, July 15, 1769.

" It is several weeks since I wrote to you
 " last. My having received no answer
 " occasions me to labour under the most
 " painful apprehensions.

" Was your situation in life but such as
 " would permit us to *live together*, I should
 " think myself the happiest of my sex. But
 " two disconsolating reflections incessantly
 " depress my spirits with that melancholy
 " which all the fortitude I am mistress of, has
 " not been able to dissipate; the one, that
 " we shall never meet again in this world—

" the

“ the other, left continuing disquietude
 “ should for ever deprive you of that rea-
 “ son and vivacity which I have formerly
 “ contemplated with so much joy and ad-
 “ miration.”

“ A. R.*”

A PASTORAL ODE ON RETIREMENT;

OR, THE PLEASURES OF A COUNTRY LIFE.

How blest the man who freely spends
 The fleeting moments Fortune lends,
 In some sequester'd bower;
 Where blameless joys his wishes crown,
 Remote from this licentious town,
 And Luxury's baneful power.

* “ The mutual tenderness and anxiety of two
 “ unfortunate lovers—each attentive to the sorrows
 “ of the other—gives the keenest edge to calamity,
 “ and pours redoubled anguish into the wound
 “ which it inflicts.”

INTRODUCTION TO FORMER MEMOIRS.

What

What mortal tongue the power can claim

To give each various vice a name

That throngs this dark abode ;

Where libertines take pride to tell

How near they are the gates of hell,

And still pursue the road.

Soon as the sun forsakes the skies,

What numerous foes around arise,

Who mark us for their prey !

Fell Rapine takes his silent stand,

And shameless Lewdness prowls the Strand,

To murder or betray.

More blest the humble country-swain,

Who tends his flock and treads the plain

Where peace and silence reign !

Who, to enjoy the purer air,

And live remote from strife and care,

Can London's pride disdain.

When first the sun, from Thetis' bed,

Has ting'd the orient skies with red,

He wakes from sweet repose ;

Of Laura takes a soft embrace,

Whose meaning blush the genuine grace

Of love and health bestows.

Through flowery lawns and fragrant groves
With careless freedom now he roves,

Where sportive lambkins play ;
He hears the sweet melodious throng
Salute the morn with early song,
From every verdant spray.

Beneath some cool embowering shade,
Where murmuring rills refresh the glade,
And flowers their sweets disclose ;
Where gentle zephyrs round him play,
At noon he shuns the sultry ray,
And takes a short repose.

When milder evening takes her reign,
In numbers soft the sylvan strain
His tuneful reed employs ;
While silent flocks stand listening round,
And echoing hills and groves resound
The shepherd's vocal joys.

But when the dusky shades of night
Have quench'd the last remains of light,
He quits the silent plain ;
With hasty steps pursues the cell
Where uncorrupted pleasures dwell,
And love and Laura reign.

Upon her rising breast reclin'd,
Alternate each disclose their mind,

While love their theme inspires;
New friendship in each bosom glows,
Till wearied nature asks repose,

Then each to rest retires.

No anxious dreams disturb their sleep:

Till the new dawn begins to peep,

In slumbers soft they lie;

Then cheerful with the lark they rise,

To join the morning sacrifice,

In rural melody.

Thus—would kind fate my wishes give,

Obscurely blest, I'd love and live,

Within some grove retir'd;

Remote from care and anxious strife,

There tranquil spend the rest of life,

Till Heav'n my soul requir'd.

CHAP.

C H A P. IX.

THE writer now hastens to close the period which preceded the publication of the narrative that produced the subsequent criticisms.

MONTHLY REVIEW.—“ Although we
 “ have classed this publication with those
 “ works of invention usually arranged under the denomination of *Novels*, it contains nevertheless a recital of facts.—
 “ These volumes will not fail to engage
 “ the reader’s attention. They are frequently enlivened with occasional pieces
 “ of poetry; in which the writer appears
 “ to possess *a very agreeable vein*. But the
 “ best part of the work consists in the
 “ correspondence of the lovers, particularly the letters from Mrs. Renwick;
 “ which show her to be a person of excellent parts, and of the most exemplary
 “ conjugal fidelity.”

LONDON MAGAZINE.—“ This is, *indeed*,
 “ a tale of genuine distress: and we hope

D

“ the

“ the world will prove favorable to the
 “ author’s misfortunes; especially as the
 “ lovers seem to be persons not only of
 “ real merit, but of much virtue.”

UNIVERSAL MAGAZINE.—“The misfor-
 “ tunes described in these volumes appear
 “ to have been *real*, and therefore excite
 “ the *greater sympathy*. The work, it
 “ may also be remarked, is interspersed
 “ with occasional poems which serve to
 “ diversify it, and are not destitute of
 “ merit.”

EDINBURGH MAGAZINE.—“The whole
 “ of this work affords an *interesting and*
 “ *affecting story*; and is interwoven with
 “ some poetical Essays that are far from
 “ being contemptible.”

ANONYMOUS*. —“The lovers whose
 “ story is here recited, are an unfortunate

* Communicated by the printer of the Bath Chronicle, and said to be written by a clergyman on reading the volumes to which the critique is applied.

“ pair

" pair who have suffered shipwreck in
 " the storms of this tempestuous world.
 " They have saved nothing but that sen-
 " sibility which God gave them, and those
 " virtues which have been so severely
 " tried.

" The letters of the Author, bewailing
 " his misfortunes, are for the most part
 " written in a strain of despondence;
 " those of Delia are the consolations of
 " Religion, in the language of Nature.
 " If you are not melted with their pe-
 " rusal, you deserve not to know what
 " affection means; and you shall die a
 " stranger to the charms of female soft-
 " ness.

" The lovers have now no hopes, no re-
 " sources left but in the wisdom of God,
 " manifested in the contributions of the
 " humane. Benevolence should be volun-
 " tary; and therefore no personal appli-
 " cation is made. Benevolence will be its
 " own reward; and for this reason no

" other motives or arguments are alledged
 " but the simple narrative of unmerited
 " distress *.

V E R S E S

Addressed to the Author in the public Prints.

Renwick ! the scene thy tale unfolds,
 The muse with streaming eyes beholds :
 At others' grief she still must grieve,
 And pity if she can't relieve.

Pensive along the favorite grove,
 Reading thy narrative I rove :
 At every incident I glow,
 And melt in sympathetic woe.

Thy muse, in rural beauty dress'd,
 Artless displays her floating vest ;
 While sweetly-varied strains impart
 Softest sensations to my heart.

* The use the writer was advised to make of this favorable critique was not supplied, and could only have been effectual in the hands of powerful patronage.

Thy

Thy Delia in fair fame shall shine;
 Her worth appears in every line:
 'Tis her's Fate's malice to controul,
 And raise with love the drooping soul.

Reading, Oct. 30.

C.

C H A P. X.

AS soon as the volumes that have been mentioned were given to the world, the writer resigned the employment he had professionally held with an eminent practitioner for a period of four years; having previously agreed to live a few months in a different capacity with his printer at Bath. Meanwhile the neighbourhood where he yet continued to reside, became acquainted with the tale that had not before been promulged. While the intelligent reader compassionated his situation, he was blamed by others for having so long protracted the separation of which he complained. No eventual considerations, said a volatile lady, should have prevented

his flying on the wings of love to the arms of the object whose absence he lamented. But such romantic sentiments (imbibed from *novels*) were not adapted to the nature of his esteem for her; though she had charms that would have justified the most enthusiastic procedure: for he could say with the poet,

"Grace was in all her steps, heaven in her eye;

"In every gesture, dignity and love."

"To Mrs. R*****.

"London, Oct. 24, 1771.

"I have this morning been revising a
 "tragedy which, to amuse some vacant
 "hours, I composed some time ago.
 "Though I wish to see it brought on the
 "stage, I have neither the ability to ren-
 "der it sufficiently correct, nor the com-
 "mand of patronage represented to be
 "more material.

"Having settled with my bookseller
 "the publication of the volumes in which

"you

" you are so essentially interested, I shall
 " not prolong my continuance in town.
 " However unwilling you have been to
 " appear on this occasion before the pub-
 " lic, you have a just claim to the pre-
 " eminence I am so willing to allow; and
 " whatever may be the criticisms of *un-*
 " *feeling* minds, your conjugal virtues will
 " not fail to excite the admiration of
 " others, and in the commiseration of
 " those to whom Providence has dele-
 " gated the power, verify the affirmation
 " of the poet;

" Blessings ever wait on virtuous deeds,
 " And though a late—a sure reward succeeds."

" I have only to add that whatever be
 " the fate of the publication I have men-
 " tioned, I firmly purpose to return early
 " in the spring to the arms from which
 " I can no longer live asunder.

" W. R."

Notwithstanding the hopes expressed in the above letter, the writer had to combat the efforts which ultimately terminated in a discovery of their origin. On his arrival at Bath, he met with a friendly reception from the worthy gentleman he was come to reside with; but it was not long before he became disqualified for the avocations he had undertaken to discharge.

The indisposition adverted to being at this period *sympathetic*, was not to be removed by the indiscriminate practice too frequently prevalent in medical prescription. The most amiable part of creation, from the delicate texture of their frames, are more particularly obnoxious to the errors of physic; the finest springs of mechanism being the soonest spoiled by the hands of an unskilful artist. Such professional delusions are the more to be regretted from the influence which corporeal disorders have upon the mind, and the society of women being the greatest cordial and chiefest felicity of human life.

—The

—The writer the rather mentions these circumstances, as taking every opportunity to maintain the merits of a sex who do not always meet the respect and attention to which they have so distinguished a claim.

O N W O M E N.

O you to whom propitious fate has given
The sole possession of those types of heaven ;
Whose favored arms the dearest gems enjoy
That earth, or air, or ocean, can supply ;
Indulgent prove, nor o'er their tender frames
Exert the power the tyrant-husband claims.
Delightful sex !—whom every beauty forms,
And with celestial fascination charms :
Whose converse, as the heavy hours incline
Can cheer the soul beyond the powers of wine ;
Sublime the cell where secret sorrows flow,
And balm the tear of sentimental woe.

D E S P O N D E N C E.

To elude the pangs of anxious care,
In vain each clime I try ;
The prospects that incite despair,
Pursue where-e'er I fly.

Thy waters, BATH ! no cure contain
 Where love invades the breast;
 Nor while the muse must still complain,
 Can lull the mind to rest.

While those whom Orient splendor charms,
 To distant climes would roam;
 Enough to share my Delia's arms,
 Would make me blest at home.

Oh haste the hour when I again
 Shall clasp her to my heart;
 And since without her life's such pain,
 May we again ne'er part."

" To Mr. R*****.

" Berwick, Dec. 19, 1771.

" The ways of heaven are dark and intricate;
 " Puzzl'd in mazes and perplex'd with errors,
 " Our understanding traces them in vain,
 " Lost and bewildered in the fruitless search;
 " Nor sees with how much art the windings run,
 " Nor where the regular confusion ends."

" These lines of a favorite poet are
 " applicable to the contents of your last;
 " and

" and will, I trust, have a tendency to
 " reconcile you to calamities in which
 " our welfare may be ultimately interested.
 " With regard to the condition of life in
 " which you would place me, it need not
 " be *elevated* to gratify my wishes. Were
 " these attainable, I would see the sun rise
 " and set in such a rural situation as that
 " described in the lines I have just been
 " reading :

" Within an antient forest's ample verge,
 " There stands a lonely but a healthful dwelling,
 " Built for convenience and the use of life;
 " Around it, fallows, meads, and pastures fair,
 " A little garden and a limpid brook,
 " By nature's own contrivance seem disposed."

" Such a retreat, however, could only
 " be animated in the return you have
 " promised, and which while you prolong,
 " I could sit me down in some dull shade
 " Where lonely contemplation keeps her cave,
 " And pass the joyless hours in musing melan-
 " choly."

" A. R."

C H A P. XI.

THE sympathy of congenial minds has ever been a grateful antidote to calamity, and tends to alleviate the affliction it cannot remove.

“ To Mr. WILLIAM RENWICK.

“ S I R,

London, Jan. 2, 1772.

“ Deeply interested by your very affecting publication, I cannot deny myself the satisfaction of contributing the inclosed trifle * towards the relief of such virtuous distrefs. Will it be thought an impertinent curiosity to enquire if you are yet restored to the deserving object of your affections? If you think proper to gratify it, a line directed for ——— will be esteemed a favor, and give real pleasure to a heart that tenderly sympathizes in your misfortunes.”

* A bank-bill,

“ Three

“ Three ladies present their compliments to Mr. Cruttwell, and desire to pay him six guineas for one copy of Mr. Renwick’s history. They do not chuse to communicate their names, unless it will be of any service to the author.”

“ To Mr. WILLIAM RENWICK.

“ S I R, London, April 4, 1772.

“ Although a susceptible mind may be esteemed a blessing, yet when misfortunes press close upon us, or by a too tender participation those of others become our own, it is indeed a painful pre-eminence. This I have strongly experienced in your instance; and one of the first wishes of my heart is to have the power equal to my inclination to serve you. Were this the case, I would immediately make myself known, and obtain a personal interview; which at present would only be productive of pain to us
“ both.—

"both.—I will endeavor to recommend
 "you to those who can afford you more
 "gratification ; but the generality are too
 "much engrossed by the pursuits of plea-
 "sure and ambition to pay any attention
 "to the tale of sorrow.—My thanks are
 "due for your very genteel present.—As
 "far as tears can soften, or the tenderest
 "pity soothe your distress, you may de-
 "pend on

" A SYMPATHIZING FRIEND."

The volumes that produced the above
 correspondence do not appear to have
 fallen into any hands in which humanity
 and interest were united ; and contribu-
 tions are only extensive when publicly pa-
 tronized by powerful friends. The period,
 however, was now arrived in which the
 author resolved to terminate the separa-
 tion that had continued for seven years,
 and which he was no longer able to
 endure.

It

It was the anniversary morning of their nuptials when he entered the apartment

* * * * *

C H A P. XII.

THOUGH the writer now prepared to commence the professional practice by which he wished to prevent the necessity of future separation, his prospects in this view were not so favorable as the sympathizing reader will wish to have found them. The faculty resident where it was only in his power to settle, were (as it was probably in every other place) already too numerous; and the friends most likely to have aided his endeavors, beyond the reach of human application. Respecting the acquisition of others, it will be sufficient to observe that an intercourse with the children of calamity is
feldom

feldom solicited by the favourites of fortune; and the poet has said

Wealth now is worth, whatever 'twas of old,
And merit valu'd by its weight in gold.*

The success of the profession that has been mentioned, is known to depend more on external circumstances and a favourable chain of connection, than on any claims of judgment or desert; and general practice is never expected so early as the writer's situation required. Hence establishment previous to the charge of a family (where there is no other source of maintenance) has always been deemed necessary, but could not now be effected by the writer; who, notwithstanding the utmost efforts and œconomy, found himself unequal to the demands which Heaven was pleased annually to enlarge.

* "The lucky coxcomb every man does prize,

"And prosperous actions always pass for wise."

A custom

A custom house place of about forty pounds a year (requiring no attendance) became seasonably vacant. This he endeavoured to add to the practice it did not exclude; but it was more successfully claimed, in favor of himself, by the author of the card that will show the writer's situation to have been similar to that of Mr. Gay, when he wrote his celebrated fable of "the hare and many friends."

"MR. MAYOR * presents his respectful compliments to Mr. Renwick, and thanks him for the perusal of the publication returned herewith. — As Mr. Mayor reveres the amiable qualities (he would call them virtues) of candor, good nature, and innocent jocularly, possessed by Mr. Renwick, he cannot forbear to express his satisfaction in hearing others profess the same veneration for them."

* The chief magistrate of the corporation.

"To

“ To Mr. RENWICK.

“ S I R,

London, April 8, 1773.

“ I think no mind can be so totally de-
 “ void of compassion, as not to feel a wish
 “ to relieve such distress as your’s. Not
 “ having heard from Mrs. Renwick, which
 “ you gave me reason to expect, I much
 “ apprehend some further distress may have
 “ befallen you ; and am so far interested in
 “ your happiness, that with solicitude I
 “ make the enquiry. If that deserving wo-
 “ man is still living, and has added another
 “ child to your family, let me beg her to in-
 “ dulse me in the acceptance of a small pre-
 “ sent, with the sincerest wishes for her hap-
 “ pier prospects, and that her merit may not
 “ wholly await a future reward.

“ I heartily wish you success in your next
 “ publication; but however gratified we may
 “ be by *fictitious* tales of woe, real ones are
 “ but ill suited to the general taste.”

To

" To Mr. RENWICK.

" S I R, August 9, 1775.

" Though it is long since I made any
" enquiries after you, yet the wish of serv-
" ing you still remains the same. If you
" continue in such a situation as to render
" a few guineas, from a lady who has in-
" terested herself in your concerns, the
" least worthy of your acceptance, I shall
" be happy to convey it by any means you
" propose; and am sorry I cannot afford
" you more powerful patronage."

" To Mr. RENWICK.

" S I R, North-Wales, Nov. 18, 1777.

" Some few years ago I purchased a cou-
" ple of volumes, on the perusal of which
" I felt my sensibility much affected at the
" account they gave of the sufferings of
" the lovers whose history they contained,
" and ardently wished it in my power to
" relieve them. Since that time I have
" had

" had a great desire to know if they had
 " met with a favorable termination of their
 " misfortunes ; but knew not how to pro-
 " cure this intelligence till I lately observ-
 " ed a medical letter in the London new-
 " papers addressed to Mr. Hawes ; the fig-
 " nature of which, and the place from
 " whence it was dated, inclined me to
 " conceive the writer of it to be the au-
 " thor of the volumes I have mentioned,
 " I have therefore taken the liberty to re-
 " quest the favor of being informed whe-
 " ther I am right in such a conclusion,
 " and in that case to be acquainted if you
 " are now happy with your CELIA ; the
 " knowledge of which will not fail to give
 " the greatest pleasure to your sincere well-
 " wisher,

" HARRIOT MODESTA B——. *"

* In consequence of this letter the writer begs
 leave to observe, that his address may at any time
 be ascertained from the publisher of the work that
 excites the wish to be acquainted therewith.

CHAP.

C H A P. XIII.

NEAR five years elapsed during the writer's exertions in the line that has been mentioned. At the end of this period he had occasion to observe that if he had been any way accessary to the fate under which he suffered, it was known to be in his having made the choice that would have dignified the throne of empire, and in his reliance on the patronage by which he had been so unhappily deluded.

Unable to derive from the supplies that had ever been deficient the continued provision that was necessary, he was now compelled to decline the practice that was no further available. Like the shipwrecked mariner, he had no alternative but that of quitting the premises that were no longer tenable; while he wept over those whose welfares were dearer to him than his own.—

“ The

"The valiant in *himself* what can he suffer,

"Or what does he regard his single woes?

"But when alas! he multiplies himself

"To dearer selves---to the lov'd tender Fair,

"To those whose bliss, whose being hangs

"upon him,

"To helpless children--then, oh then, he feels

"The point of mis'ry festering in his heart,

"And weakly weeps his fortune like a coward."

"To Mr. RENWICK,

"S I R, North-Wales, Dec. 9, 1777.

"I return you my most sincere thanks
 "for the trouble you have taken in an-
 "swering my enquiries; and am much
 "concerned to find you have not yet met
 "the good fortune your virtues so exten-
 "sively deserve.

"Tell your Delia I honor and revere
 "her for her conjugal fidelity, as well as
 "for the beauties of her heart and mind;
 "and wish I had the happiness of being
 "personally acquainted with her, or that
 "I could by any means alleviate the an-
 xiety

"xiety she has been fated to sustain.—
 "If I am not too impatient, I shall es-
 "teem it an additional obligation if,
 "when you have a moment to spare
 "from more important employments,
 "you will let me know whether your
 "affairs bear a more favorable aspect
 "than when you favored me with your
 "last. I hope you will not be obliged
 "to remove from the place of your
 "present residence: if you are, may you
 "be directed by a bounteous Providence
 "to a more favorable abode; and your
 "virtues at length rewarded with such
 "a competency as may render you and
 "your Delia mutually happy.

"H. M. B——*"

* This respected correspondent is conceived to
 be the young lady whose productions, under the
 same signature, have honored the Magazine that
 bears the name of her affectionate sex.

To

"To the Right Hon. the Earl of LISBURNÉ.

"Berwick upon Tweed, May 8, 1778.

"MY LORD,

"Being well acquainted with Mr.
"William Renwick, surgeon in this place ;
"and having always found him a deserv-
"ing person, of good character and dili-
"gent in his profession, but unsuccessful
"with regard to attaining a competency
"for a rising family on account of the
"number of medical practitioners in this
"quarter, we beg leave to recommend
"him *as a gentleman worthy of your lordship's*
"*esteem.* If you can render him any ser-
"vices which your lordship's own wisdom
"will suggest when you see him, it will
"in our judgment be doing an act of
"benevolence that cannot fail to give
"your lordship the greatest satisfaction.

"We have the honor to be, &c."

"LORD LISBURNÉ presents his compli-
"ments to Mr. Renwick ; is sorry he was
"gone

"gone out when Mr. R. called on him
 "this morning, and desires to see him
 "tomorrow-morning at eleven o'clock."

"Admiralty, Thursday, June 18."

The writer (who had been unable to separate from the family he had brought with him to town) met with an affectionate reception from his lordship; who regretted with the humanity that is natural to him, his want of power to effect the tranquility that would have given him so much pleasure.

"To Mr. RENWICK.

"SIR, North Wales, July 21, 1778.

"Your letter of the 28th of June I did
 "not receive till yesterday; owing to my
 "having been upon a visit to a distant
 "part of this country for some time past.
 "I would have immediately noticed your
 "preceding favor, had I not conceived
 "your mind to be at that time too much
 E "agitated

"agitated to attend to enquiries which I
 "was also fearful you might imagine the
 "result of impertinent curiosity. I own
 "that as I have not the power to render
 "you any essential services, such enquiries
 "might bear the appearance of imperti-
 "nence; in excuse for which I have only
 "to urge that I was so much affected at
 "the perusal of your unmerited suffer-
 "ings, and had formed so favorable an
 "opinion of the goodness of your heart
 "and that of your amiable Celia, that I
 "wished much to hear you were extri-
 "cated from your troubles. And as this
 "opinion has much increased since those
 "enquiries were made, I cannot help be-
 "ing still anxious to know whether you
 "have yet any favorable prospect. That
 "you may both be as happy as you ap-
 "pear to deserve, is the sincere prayer of
 "your well-wisher,

"HARRIOT MODESTA B——."

To

"To Mr. RENWICK.

"S I R, Brentwood, Aug. 21, 1778.

"I am very sorry it is not in my power
"to do for you what you desire; but I
"have recommended you to Mr. Adair,
"who has as much feeling for your dis-
"tresses as I have, and I dare say will
"serve you if he can.

"I am, Sir, your most obedient servant,

"WM. CADOGAN.*"

The writer now passed the examination for which the state of his mind rendered him so disqualified; previous to which he had published the pamphlet adverted to in the following critique.

"The writer of this pamphlet is an
"ingenious and skilful surgeon, residing at

* Physician-general to the camp at Warley-
common.

“ Berwick upon Tweed. He has thrown to-
“ gether a few judicious observations (rather
“ hastily) on three subjects of very great
“ importance to society. That which
“ takes the lead in his performance we
“ esteem the principal ; and as we do not
“ wish to deprive him either of the honor
“ or the emoluments that may be derived
“ from this publication, we shall only take
“ notice generally, that his assertion is
“ true beyond a possibility of doubt, for
“ it is confirmed by daily experience : ‘ We
“ are strangers to that vigor of constitution
“ which appears to have been possessed by
“ our ancestors in former ages ; and this
“ declension increases with every succeed-
“ ing generation.’

“ With the laudable view of applying
“ a remedy to this national evil, Mr.
“ Renwick gives a few rules for the con-
“ duct of married persons from the time
“ of their connubial union to that of the
“ birth of their offspring ; to which he
“ annexes the most salutary advice on the
“ management

" management of children, particularly
 " cautioning parents against administering
 " medicines of any kind in the early
 " period of infancy. He likewise severely
 " reprehends Government, and with great
 " justice, for supporting with the weight
 " of its authority the publication of sti-
 " mulating medicines, and of patent
 " quackery ' for the cure of that unhappy
 " disease incident to the votaries of Venus.'

" We are sorry to find him too concise
 " in this principal part of his pamphlet,
 " as it appears that he is *master of his sub-*
 " *ject*; and perhaps he could not do a
 " better service to the community than to
 " work up these outlines into a full-
 " finished dissertation on the subject.—
 " The same remark may be applied to
 " his *second* subject, ' Curfory observations
 " ' on the gout.' They are indeed so cur-
 " sory, that they justify Dr. Johnson's
 " definition of the term being hasty,
 " quick, inattentive, careless, yet exhi-
 " biting strong marks of genius and phi-
 " lanthropy.

“lanthropy. Let us therefore hope for
 “a well digested *volume* at some future
 “period on the first and second subjects;
 “especially as we perfectly agree with
 “him and the learned physician to whom
 “he inscribes his pamphlet, in believing
 “that the gout ‘is a disease less difficult
 “to be removed and prevented than it has
 “generally been deemed to be*.’

“As to Mr. Renwick’s correspondence
 “with Mr. Hawes, relative to the inter-
 “ment of the dead, it will be sufficient
 “to observe that the candor of both in
 “the course of the dispute does them
 “honor.”

“To Mr. RENWICK.

“S I R,

Admiralty, Oct. 2.

“As I am going into Wales this morn-
 “ing for a month, I shall not be able to

* It was once the writer’s intention to publish
 a *general system of the practice of physic*; but for rea-
 sons that will be obvious to the reader, such a design
 is not now likely to be accomplished.

“see

" see you till my return. Wishing, how-
 " ever, to do you all the service at present
 " in my power, I enclose you a letter
 " recommending you to be employed as
 " a navy-surgeon; and it would give me
 " much satisfaction if you could be placed
 " in a situation more commodious to the
 " circumstances of your family.—The
 " other particulars in your letter I shall
 " take notice of when I have next the
 " pleasure of seeing you; and am, with
 " great regard, Sir, your most humble
 " servant,

" LISBURNE."

C H A P. XIV.

DISAPPOINTMENTS in love,
 says the Spectator, are more hard
 to get over than any other. The mind
 meets with other misfortunes in her whole
 strength. She stands collected within
 herself, and sustains the shock with all
 the fortitude that is natural to her; but a

heart in love has its foundations sapped, and sinks under the weight of accidents that are disagreeable to its favorite passion.

“ To W. R.

“ S I R,

“ As the principal Editor of the Magazine to which you have addressed your pathetic narrative, and deeply sympathizing in your affecting situation, I take the liberty to remonstrate against the false philosophy which calamity and disappointment have caused you to adopt. From my own experience I can boldly say, and without presumption, Desert not Providence, and Providence will not desert *you*. Though relief be not immediate—though it come not in the day or hour expected, yet it will come; and so heavenly directed, that though the arm of man may hold it forth, you shall hardly consider it as the instrument, because it
“ shall

"shall be from a quarter the most unex-
 "pected. Accept one illustration. * *

"* * * * *

"* * * * *

"Now judge whether you would wish
 "to receive the lessons of the living
 "philosopher, or of the erroneous deceased
 "skeptic, Hume. Remember what you
 "owe to your amiable wife, and the
 "children who claim your continuing
 "care. Can you tell what those children
 "may live to be? If males, perhaps the
 "judges, the senators, the statesmen of
 "the land: If females, the bright ex-
 "amples (like their mother) of conjugal
 "virtue and British fortitude, superior to
 "Roman; or with virtuous dispositions
 "suited to every station, they may be
 "rewarded with the highest. And would
 "you not drag on the most wretched state
 "of human misery to live to see these
 "happy occurrences—not impossible, be-
 "cause all things are possible to the Deity
 "—not improbable, because they have fre-

quently

" frequently happened in the course of hu-
" man events.

" Pardon, Sir, the liberty I have taken.

" Could I have served you with my
" purse, I would have flung my pen in
" the fire.

" T. M."

" To Mr. Renwick.

" S I R,

" Indeed I feel for your situation, and

" the more so as at this time it is not in

" my power to assist you. We have no

" hospitals in England, nor do I know of

" any troops to be raised.

" Lord Lisburne has interest, and I ap-

" prehend can get you appointed either

" to a man of war, which may be valuable

" in these troublesome times—or assistant

" at Portsmouth by an application to the

" Commissioners of the Sick and Hurt.

" There is at present much sickness in the

" fleet, and it is likely to increase.

" There

" There are none of our garrisons va-
" cant. They are trifling appointments.

" I am, Sir, your most obedient humble
" servant,

Oct. 28. " ROBERT ADAIR."

" To Mrs. R*****.

" River Humber, Dec. 9, 1778.

" It is not without much disquietude I
" contemplate the separation which a
" cruel fortune has again occasioned.
" Though I can count but a few days
" since my departure from London, ages
" of time seem already to have elapsed.
" The years we have lived together have
" but rendered absence the more painful
" to me ; and it is only in your presence
" that the most extensive acquisition of
" power or affluence could make me
" happy.

" May the Power who bids the waves
" be still, protect you during your passage
" to the place to which you are destined
" to return ; and with my love to the
E 6 " children

" children, believe me your ever-affec-
 " tionate

" W. R."

The writer was now a surgeon in the service that will deny him the quiet for which he has occasion, and in which he can only render himself agreeable in the means he is incapable of supplying. He has also to sustain the maritime sickness that will not be found to leave him.

" To Mrs. RENWICK.

" MADAM, Palsgrave-Place, Jan. 29, 1779.

" Though I have not the pleasure of a
 " personal acquaintance with you, I have
 " enjoyed some agreeable hours in the
 " company of Mr. Renwick, to whom as
 " often as he was pleased to honor me with
 " his conversation, I endeavoured to show
 " every mark of respect.—Permit me to
 " request the favor of being informed into
 " whose hands I may pay a few guineas
 " received for your use; and I wish it was
 " in

“ in my power to contribute to Mr. Ren-
 “ wick’s merits in such a manner as would
 “ give the greatest pleasure to, Madam,
 “ Your most humble and obedient servant,

“ W. HAWES.”

“ To Mrs. R*****.

“ River Elbe, July 14, 1779.

“ Unknown to tears that by the muse are shed,
 “ While others, careless of the genial bed,
 “ The fragrant extract for the bowl prepare,
 “ And to convivial joys resign each care,
 “ I grieve each hour my absence from the arms
 “ Where love and friendship breathe more
 “ grateful charms.

* * * * *

“ In vain were first of time and absence try’d
 “ The powers that no oblivious aid supply’d ;
 “ Nor could the tumult of the hostile plain
 “ The ardent passion in my breast restrain.
 “ Those cheeks that glow’d with more than
 “ roseate hue,
 “ Those eyes refulgent with celestial blue,

“ The

"The graceful mien for love's attention form'd,
"Each mental ray that more than beauty
"charm'd,

"While Art to erase the imag'd draught essay'd,
"With every hour your lovely form display'd.

"The tuneful strings, to mitigate my pain,
"Though oft resum'd, were still resum'd in
"vain ;

"Nor could my skill in Nature's ills avail,
"Or medic aids suspend the plaintive tale.

"In vain where center'd the sequester'd grove,
"Invoked philosophy with nature's grove ;

"With each returning day the more I grew
"Displeas'd with fortune, and in love with you.

"When late a swallow, laboring to explore
"The distant confines of the summer-shore,
"Amid the shrouds, towards the approach of
"night,

"Perch'd fearful and exhausted with its flight ;
"The pitied scene soft o'er each rising thought

"Your tender feelings to remembrance brought ;
"Whose eye could ne'er behold the wanton boy

"The feather'd parent's patient hopes destroy ;
"Whose

" Whose ear could never bear the sportive sound
 " That laid the pheasant fluttering on the
 " ground;
 " Whose hand could ne'er inflict the fatal pain.
 " The partlet-brood are destin'd to sustain.—
 " As oft, to pass the winter's night away,
 " I've at your elbow read some tragic lay,
 " (Your skilful hands, by practice often try'd,
 " While one the steel and one the lawn employ'd)
 " I've grateful mark'd the sympathetic sigh
 " That gives to virtue such exalted joy.
 " Can scenes that with *fiction* evils seem
 " Impel the tide of sympathy to stream,
 " And shall no pity from the eye distil
 " At the sad narrative of real ill?
 " Nor need the eye to mourn our fate inclin'd,
 " Restrain the tear that marks the god-like
 " mind:
 " Titles and wealth promiscuously flow;
 " The *virtuous* only feel for others' woe:
 " Some grateful office, in a tranquil line,
 " For future maintenance would Heaven assign,
 " Though time and grief with autumn may destroy
 " The rosy tints that caught the admiring eye,
 " The

"The social flame of intellectual powers
 "Would still with transport crown the circling
 " hours ;
 "Still flush your cheeks with more suffusive
 " charms
 "Than those which rous'd the Grecian world
 " to arms.
 "Let those who ridicule domestic life,
 "The prattling offspring and the endearing wife,
 "Fraught with ambitious or penurious care,
 "Without constraint to distant climes repair ;
 "Exult to hear the slaughtering cannon's roar,
 "And spread dismay along the hostile shore ;
 "Were I now fix'd within some village-cot,
 "(The happy shepherd's undistinguish'd lot !)
 "The humble competency undeny'd
 "By which each needful want might be supply'd,
 "In vain would Fortune court me to be great !
 "In vain display the pageantry of state !
 "The trump of fame, the ornamented car,
 "The pomp of battle, or the spoils of war,
 "Should no emotions in the breast excite
 "Where *love* could furnish such sublime delight.

"W. R."

CHAP.

C H A P. XV.

" To Mrs. R*****.

" At Sea, Sept. 30.

" **L**ET not my dear Abby be alarmed.
" The battle is over, and the writer
" safe.

" W. R."

The above letter contains the first effusions of the writer's pen after an engagement that was long the subject of public conversation, and deemed one of the most tragical in the annals of history.

His Majesty's ships were carried to the Texel; where the tragedy was continued in the long imprisonment (including the captains and other officers) that proved fatal to many of the unfortunate survivors, to whose liberation the writer apprehends his representations ultimately contributed.

On his arrival in London, he was appointed to one of the smallest Frigates. His agent pressed him to accept of this appointment,

appointment, but Providence threw circumstances in the way that occasioned him to decline it; and before she returned from the service on which she sailed, the ship he has mentioned, together with the unfortunate crew, were no longer heard of.— The same fate happened to a *private* ship of war to the surgeoncy of which the writer was recommended by a relation of Mrs. Renwick's at the time in which he could only obtain a *mateship* in the service of Government; but there being no allowance of pay, he durst not trust to the chance of prizemoney alone for the maintenance of a numerous family which in the meanwhile must have been left altogether destitute. From a similar consideration he declined the acceptance of a transport going to be employed in America, for the offer of which he was obliged to an eminent physician in London; who it was said intended giving him letters of further recommendation, but of which intention he was not informed till after the declension that

that has been mentioned, and when (could it even in *this* view have been eligible) acceptance was no longer in his power. These circumstances are noticed for reasons that will at least be obvious to the parties by whom he was distantly favored with the recommendations adverted to.

" To Mr. RENWICK.

" S I R, Admiralty, Jan. 29, 1780.

" I have received both your letters ;
 " and can assure you it was with great concern I heard of the capture of the Countess of Scarborough, and the difficulties you have been exposed to. I am sensible it has been attended with much loss and personal hardship to you ; which I shall be glad to alleviate as much as lies in my power. I particularly recommended you to the Comptroller of the Navy to be put into a good Frigate that promised some advantages, and trust you will soon be noticed. I am, Sir, your most obedient
 " humble servant,

" LISBURN."

The faithful partner of the writer's fate wished to administer to the recovery of the health which had suffered from the confinement that has been mentioned ; but it was too early to hazard (without a certainty of advantage) the meeting that could only prove of short continuance, or to comply with the request that had otherwise been received with greater transport than that of the monarch when invited to the possession of empire.

The sea was an element on which the writer's health continued severely to suffer, while the inquietude of his mind and other circumstances rendered him a very improper companion for those with whom he was obliged to associate ; but the unfortunate are compelled to chuse the evils they wish to avoid. To procure a place in the list which he has in other publications shown to be so unfavorable to humanity and the national welfare, it was necessary to complete the term of the required servitude ; and to have urged incapacity, would

would have been soliciting a discharge from further provision.

“ To Mr. RENWICK.

“ SIR, Admiralty, April 8, 1780.

“ It gave me great satisfaction to hear
 “ of your appointment to the Marlbo-
 “ rough *; to which I have no doubt your
 “ merit in your profession greatly condu-
 “ ced. I have done what has been in my
 “ power to serve you, and to forward your
 “ advancement; and though it may be
 “ irksome to you to be separated from
 “ your family, your present situation is too
 “ advantageous to quit, unless some fairer
 “ prospect opened.

“ I have reason to think the Marlbo-
 “ borough will now compose one of the
 “ home-squadron; and hope the alarming
 “ sickness which has prevailed on board
 “ will soon entirely cease, as you say it be-
 “ gins to abate. I am, Sir, your most
 “ obedient humble servant,

“ LISBURNE.”

* A seventy-four.

“ To

To Mrs. R*****. †

Marlborough, in the Downs, Jan. 11, 1781.

While from the beach the surge denies
To waft the tidings-love would hear,
My bosom heaves with anxious sighs,
And plaintive streams the mental tear.
From you, for whom the raging seas
And war's ungrateful toils I bear,
From you must flow the grateful ease
That shall at length reward my care.

Nor grieve lest earlier fate restrain
The hand that guides the pensive lay;
The Power that form'd the spacious main
(Whose will the waves and winds obey)
Can o'er the deep protection wave,
When angry tempests rock the shore;
And 'midst the dreadful tumult save,
Where far resounds the cannon's roar.

When,

† On the writer's return from a cruize in stormy weather.

When, by unequal arms assail'd,
Resistive force contend'd long,
As near Northumbria's coast prevail'd
The combat fam'd in recent song;
In those tremendous fatal hours,
When o'er the *dead* the *dying* fell,
Protected by presiding powers,
The bard escap'd the tale to tell.

Ah what avail'd that o'er the page
Descriptive of the tragic scene,
The Muse, her sorrows to assuage,
Implor'd the eye of Britain's queen!
To courts (remote the voice that grieves)
Unknown revolve oblivious woes;
Unheard the sigh that anxious heaves,
Unseen the tear that plaintive flows.
To *me* each spring returns in vain,
In vain the garden fragrant blows;
Still doom'd to plough the restless main
Whose space no grateful landscape shows.
Yet o'er the gloom of dire despair,
Hope sometimes pours a transient ray;
Shows happier hours shall sooth each care,
And end at length the pensive lay.

Will then the Fair for whom I mourn
 Reward my toils with truth sincere;
 Rejoice to see the Bard's return,
 And wipe away the falling tear?
 When o'er his face the marks of woe
 And Fortune's rugged blasts are seen,
 The grateful balm of love bestow
 And emulate Ulysses' queen?

W. R.*

" To Mr. R*****.

" Berwick, Oct. 29, 1781.

" I must confess my dislike of both
 " your last-received favors. A person who
 " has been long accustomed to a luxurious
 " diet, takes very ill upon homely fare.

" In the first of these epistles, you say
 " my letter has no other merit than that
 " of being moral and religious; qualities
 " that would not exalt me in the esteem of
 " those to whom women are only perso-
 " nally attractive. Why mention them,

* The replication is esteemed too tender for the
 public eye.

" my

" my dear Mr. R***** ? I was writing to
 " you—not to them. They are those whose
 " principles and morals I despise ; and did
 " you bear any similitude, it is not the
 " tender appellation of a husband that
 " would endear you to me.

" A. R."

" To Mrs. R*****.

" Plymouth-sound, Nov. 4, 1781.

" Were you acquainted with the vari-
 " ous circumstances that serve to discom-
 " pose me, you would not always expect
 " me to write in the tenderest or multi-
 " plied strains of love ; and if those cir-
 " cumstances have ever occasioned me to
 " express myself in improper terms, I am
 " sorry for it. My frowns are at Fortune—
 " not at the most amiable of her sex.

" I have only time to add that I was
 " more jocular than serious in the observa-
 " tions complained of, and that you shall
 " have a longer letter by a subsequent
 " post.

" W. R."

C H A P. XVI.

TO prevent the repetition of sentiments that have been antecedently resumed, the reader will pass over a period of near two years ; during which it will not be necessary to describe the solitudes that were reciprocally sustained. With respect to the writer, it required all the temperance for which he has been esteemed so unsocial, to enable him to discharge his duty ; and without which ability, the circumstances he might have urged in his favor would not have been found to avail him.

The period was now arrived that was either to terminate his continuance in the ship that has last been mentioned, or subject him to the influence of a climate he had reason to apprehend would early render him unfit for service.—Of two evils, the least is always the most eligible. The reader will therefore readily anticipate his conduct

conduct on the present occasion; though he did not foresee that eight months would elapse before he succeeded in his application for re-employment.

How long, under such circumstances, he might have continued impregnable to invitations of which he had declined the acceptance, was more than human fortitude can determine. Political as well as moral virtues are only *circumstantially* meritorious. Loyalty, like heroism, is not always the result of commendable qualities; and the enthusiasm of both may often be more reprehensible than praise-worthy. The former has been frequently exhibited by the most worthless of mankind, and courage is found in the breast that is callous to every sensation of humanity.

" To Mrs. R*****.

" Plymouth, Jan. 8, 1782.

" In compliance with your request and
 " my real incapacity for foreign service,
 " I solicited the dismissal that has been

F 2

" granted;

" granted; though I could have wished
 " that such a dismissal had not been ne-
 " cessary. I trust, however, from my
 " Captain's having informed the Commis-
 " sioners of the Navy, in answer to their
 " letter on that subject, that in parting
 " with me '*the Service would lose a good*
 " '*Surgeon,*' it will not be long before I am
 " appointed to another ship. Meanwhile
 " I shall hasten to repair my health where
 " it is most likely to be restored.—I have
 " formerly said I was rich in claim, but
 " poor in possession. I hope in a few days
 " to be rich in both: but alas! 'tis but to
 " participate a temporary happiness that
 " must again be early resigned. Still must
 " we meet to part, and the last meeting be
 " still to come. But however distant that
 " meeting may prove, you will continue
 " to find me your faithful husband,

" W. R."

" To

" To the Earl of LISBURN.

" MY LORD, Berwick, April 6, 1782.

" However slender have been the hopes
 " derived from my correspondence with
 " your lordship, they have had some little
 " tendency to alleviate the anxiety you
 " have so long beheld me to labour under.
 " When my professional knowledge of the
 " animal œconomy, and acquaintance with
 " my own constitution in particular, obli-
 " ged me to leave the Marlborough on-
 " her being ordered to the West-Indies,
 " I flattered myself that the circumstances I
 " have formerly mentioned, would procure
 " me the early attention which your Lord-
 " ship's going out of office may now be un-
 " able to accelerate. I must also perhaps now
 " cease to rely on your lordship's friendship
 " with respect to any more eligible provision
 " which it might have been in your lord-
 " ship's power to procure for me on shore.
 " In the mean time my constitution (so much
 " injured by the elemental distemperature I

" have never got the better of) is fast declining, and age precipitated by the continuance of sorrow. I am, my Lord, your
 " Lordship's humble servant,

" W. RENWICK."

" To Mr. RENWICK.

" S I R, Admiralty, April 11, 1782.

" I received both your letters of a late date, and can assure you I have always
 " wished to contribute to your ease and comfort. While you were surgeon to the
 " Marlborough, I had it not in my power
 " to place you in a better situation; and
 " when you quitted that ship upon her
 " being ordered abroad, for the very sufficient reasons you assigned, it was my
 " intention, had I continued in office, to
 " have obtained for you a proper employment in the line of your profession.
 " The change which has just happened
 " will probably deprive me of the little
 " influence I might pretend to; and in
 " this

" this case I shall only regret that, feeling
 " the disposition, I may have no oppor-
 " tunity to serve those I esteem.—When
 " you come to town, I shall be very glad
 " to see you; and am, Sir, your most
 " obedient servant,

" LISBURNE."

" To the Earl of LISBURNE.

" MY LORD, Berwick, April 16, 1782.

" I am happy to find you so well satis-
 " fied with a conduct the necessity of which
 " is less obvious to those who do not pos-
 " sess the discriminating powers of your
 " lordship.

" In thanking your lordship for your
 " intentions in my favor, had you con-
 " tinued in office, permit me to observe
 " it is not the professional line in which
 " you intended to serve me that would
 " have been the most acceptable; and
 " that there were other departments con-
 " ceived to be within the reach of your
 " lordship

" lordship in which I should have found
 " a more eligible provision. The pro-
 " fession of physic is a science with which
 " I never was much enamored ; and how-
 " ever essential to the removal of distem-
 " perature, I have long been of opinion
 " that the *general* practice of it has a
 " greater [tendency to shorten, than to
 " prolong the lives of mankind. Were
 " medical professors more generally qua-
 " lified than they are believed to be, it
 " might still with propriety be urged,
 " *Natura optima morborum mediatrix.*
 " Though I do not now expect the ser-
 " vices from your lordship for which I
 " have so much occasion, I shall not be
 " the less early in paying the respects
 " which your lordship will ever find to
 " be different from the temporary pro-
 " fessions that only last during the con-
 " tinuance of the power by which they
 " are excited. I am the more sorry for
 " the termination of that power in your
 " lordship, because if report is to be
 " credited,

" credited, your lordship's services to the
 " State were such as ought not to escape
 " the notice of an Administration whose
 " attention to the public welfare has been
 " so favorably anticipated. I am, my
 " Lord, your lordship's most obedient
 " servant,

" W. RENWICK.

C H A P. XVII.

THE writer has nothing to observe
 respecting the meeting in which his
 probity was too early manifested, but that
 he was happy to see those who were dis-
 posed to meet his acquaintance, and that
 he had too great a respect for his own
 consequence to obtrude himself on the
 attention of others.

On his return to town, he was received
 at Portland-Place (whither his right ho-
 norable correspondent had removed) with
 that particular sympathy which is the
 most distinguished characteristic of human
 nature.

nature.—His lordship was at the hour spoken of, on the entrance of a journey. "I would otherwise," said he, "have personally waited on the Comptroller of the Navy; but I trust the letter I will stay to write, may be of some availment."

With this letter the writer repaired to Crutched-Fryers. Prior to the delivery of it, he wished to have an opportunity of attempting the powers in which (if he may be allowed the observation) his friends formerly assigned him a qualification for the Senate; but though he could have obtained the admission that was denied him, he felt himself under the influence of emotions by which the powers of expression are usually restrained. He could have pleaded the cause of others better than his own, and in which he might have more safely indulged a freedom of remonstrance. From the justice he has ever been disposed to supply under every circumstance to which his fortune has subjected

subjected him, he has to add that a private conversation with the presiding member, procured him the attention that was fated to continue the separation he wished to terminate.

“ To Mrs. R*****.

“ London, June 28, 1782.

“ I arrived in town this morning;
 “ where I shall lose no time in pursuing
 “ the welfare of those who are the con-
 “ tinued objects of my attention. In
 “ these endeavors I have to complain of a
 “ world where so few are alive to the finer
 “ feelings of sensibility, and where the
 “ liberality of power is not always in favor
 “ of particular distress. Eulogies are fre-
 “ quently supplied in commented bene-
 “ volence. Traverse the origin of that be-
 “ nevolence, and we find those who have
 “ disgraced human nature, exalted from
 “ motives that prostitute the term.

“ Since writing the above, I have been
 “ with my Lord Lisburne; whose com-

" pliments on my intellectual and moral
 " deserts cannot supply the happiness I
 " am in pursuit of. At the same time I
 " am willing to hope that his lordship's
 " professed esteem may be favorable to
 " some future hour, but there is nothing
 " to be expected from the present.

" I have only to add the necessity of
 " returning to a situation the most unsuited
 " to my condition; and that whenever
 " your welfare does not require me to be
 " absent, the sovereignty of empire could
 " not detain me from your arms.

" W. R."

" To Mrs. R*****.

Egmont, in Plymouth-Sound, Aug. 29, 1782.

" My unremitting attention to the
 " finances of my dear Abby, is the best
 " proof of the continuance of my regard
 " for her. I had desired to know in what
 " manner you would have such supplies
 " to be transferred; but my impatience
 " to

" to meet your earliest occasions, would
 " not permit me to wait for an answer.
 " The greatest felicity I have ever ex-
 " perienced, is at the instant in which I
 " find myself enabled to subscribe the
 " remittances I would hourly renew. It
 " is the only consolation the situation to
 " which I am returned can afford me. I
 " would not forego your society for the
 " acquisition of empire, but I submit to
 " be deprived of it to provide you with a
 " maintenance. The same inclinations
 " prevail with respect to the offspring of
 " our union ; but the fondness of parental
 " attachment, though beyond the powers
 " of description, is not equally ardent with
 " the influence of conjugal esteem. This
 " inequality is only felt in the comparison
 " —in a detached view, the same excess
 " predominates in both.

" In the course of the ensuing week,
 " the Egmont is expected to sail for
 " Portsmouth. My heart palpitates at
 " such a prospect; though I know of no
 " othe

" other reason for it, than that I shall be
 " nearer the object for whom the pulsa-
 " tions of life continue to vibrate.—But
 " alas! while I anticipate the arrival I
 " have mentioned, the signal appears to be
 " made that shall occasion a more distant
 " separation, in the commencement of an
 " expedition the event of which is in the
 " womb of futurity. I do not weep for
 " the dangers to which I may be exposed,
 " but that my return will not restore me
 " to the arms I continue to prefer to every
 " thing else that life can bestow. Crea-
 " tion, in your absence, contains nothing
 " that is pleasing to me; and were the
 " whole of human kind concentered in
 " one point of view, I should look on them
 " but to discriminate the most amiable
 " from the rest of her sex. I passed this
 " afternoon a duchess celebrated for her
 " personal charms, and attracting the eyes
 " of a thousand spectators; but had there
 " been an assemblage of all the princesses
 " in

" in the world, I had passed them with
" equal inattention*.

" To these effusions of a heart formed
" of too soft materials to bear the incle-
" mency of a rigid fortune, I have to add
" that on my arrival at Plymouth I was
" waited on by the president of a society
" in favor of whom I had lately occasion
" to represent the hardships that continue
" to disgrace the British service, and ho-
" nored with those invitations which could
" not animate the breast where calamity
" has crazed every other passion but that
" which has ever been the most predomi-
" nant. My dear Abby will perhaps
" blame me for immuring myself from
" human intercourse; but it is only by
" her presence that she can teach me to
" enjoy it.

" Be sure to engage in time your af-

* The personage alluded to, was the Duchess of Devonshire. In a happier situation, the writer had stood still to view her.

" sistant

" sistant for an approaching occasion;
 " and remember that the finest boy per-
 " haps in the world was, together with
 " the mother, preserved by the patience
 " of thirty-six hours.—Kiss for me each
 " of the children; and present my com-
 " pliments to those in whose society you
 " find yourself most happy.

" I have nothing to add but that I can
 " say with Cicero, the Roman orator (who
 " thus lamented his absence from Terentia),
 ' It is not our crimes that have distressed
 ' us.'

" W. R."

" To Mrs. R*****.

" Egmont, at sea, Oct. 21, 1782.

" The early departure anticipated in
 " my last, made me think it unnecessary
 " to put you to any expence in the repe-
 " tition of that information.

" Two days after our entrance into the
 " Mediterranean, the Enemy left the bay
 " and passed us to windward. The third
 " subsequent

“ subsequent morning (the supplies destined
 “ for the garrison’s relief having been sent
 “ in the night before) they returned with
 “ a reinforcement, while we resumed the
 “ Atlantic ocean. The Enemy followed
 “ us; and being to windward, could either
 “ bring on, or avoid an engagement.—

“ At noon, they bore down to us almost
 “ within gun-shot. The two fleets con-
 “ sisted of eighty sail of the line: our’s
 “ of thirty-four, the Enemy’s of forty-six;
 “ which gave them a majority of twelve.
 “ They were formed in two single lines
 “ abreast of each other, but too distant
 “ for either to effect a decisive victory;
 “ and, for the reason before given, it was
 “ only in the power of the Enemy to bring
 “ them more close.—Our standing to-
 “ wards the Barbary shore, was appre-
 “ hended to secure a retreat in the
 “ possibility of that occasion.

“ A few minutes before six o’clock, the
 “ Enemy’s van, or headmost ships, com-
 “ menced a heavy cannonade with ours;
 “ the

" the rear-division followed about half an
 " hour after; and at half past eight (*ac-*
 " *cording to our log-book*) the action became
 " general. A quarter before eleven the
 " firing ceased with three cheers from each
 " of the ships in the British line, on ac-
 " count of the Enemy's retiring from the
 " combat.—Thus, after five hour's en-
 " gagement, the contest terminated in
 " what is called a drawn-battle; no
 " ships being taken or destroyed on
 " either side.

" Lord Howe (who is perhaps the first
 " maritime General in the world) on ac-
 " count of the distance kept by the Ene-
 " my, is said not to have from his own
 " ship returned their firing, in which for-
 " bearance, the wisdom and magnanimity
 " of his lordship are equally apparent.

" I cannot inform you my dear Abby,
 " whether we are yet on our return to
 " England, but I can always assure her
 " she is ever the first object in the writer's
 " remembrance; and that I am more an-
 " xious

" xious to ascertain her recovery from the
 " situation she has to encounter, than the
 " event of any other occurrences in which
 " I may be now or subsequently interested.
 " Lost to the society of those we love, the
 " continuance of life is scarcely to be
 " wished for ; and I had rather that em-
 "pires should fall, than the object suffer
 " I would not exchange for the acquisi-
 " tion of empire.

" W. R."

" To Mrs. R*****.

" At Sea, Oct. 28.

" A second engagement has been fought
 " for, but the eye of Providence seems
 " disposed to spare for the present the fur-
 " ther effusion of human blood ; and per-
 " haps the deliberations of the winter may
 " put an end to the war. Such an event
 " might terminate many of the distresses
 " I now sustain ; but I do not wish to be
 " thereby restored to the arms that have
 " been least esteemed in the *infancy* of love,
 " unless

" unless I am freed from the solicitude with
 " which such a restoration was lately at-
 " tended. The joy of meeting was too
 " intimately blended with the sorrow of
 " departure; and while I laboured to re-
 " sume the vivacity you have known me
 " to possess, I could not but grieve for the
 " re-separation that was so early to ensue.

" I hope you will receive the letter, the
 " contents of which you will not esteem
 " the less for being written in the seven-
 " teenth year of marriage. If such a
 " strain was proper in the first hours of
 " love, I have never known any alteration
 " of that love but in the *increase* of it;
 " and I am persuaded it will extend be-
 " yond the period of sublunary duration.
 " The calamities resulting from virtuous
 " attachment and refined sensibility would
 " reproach the Divine Author of Creation,
 " were not such sensibility and attachment
 " destined to exalt our felicity in a future
 " world. The Antients do not therefore
 " appear to have been very erroneous who
 " believed

"believed that the happy enjoyed, in the
 "Elysian fields, the pleasures to which
 "they were most attached in human life.
 "The same idea gives the most probable
 "punishment to the wicked, in the exclu-
 "sion of wonted gratifications, and their
 "allotment to shades congenial with the
 "tempers they possessed.

"Let me know if your habitation has
 "yet been rendered more agreeable by the
 "alterations that were promised. If that
 "circumstance is still protracted, you are
 "under no obligation to continue where
 "you are. The remittances I have pro-
 "mised you, may for the present be relied
 "on; and will I trust enable you to com-
 "mand a residence sufficiently commodi-
 "ous. I know that, like Lavinia in
 "the tale, you want not to be con-
 "spicuous while the writer is absent from
 "you.

"We are now returning into port;
 "where I shall continue chiefly anxious
 "to

"to receive the information I would not
 "forego for the sovereignty of the world.
 "Exalted situations are only *conditionally*
 "desirable. The rustic who reposes on
 "straw, may be happier than the mo-
 "narch who slumbers on down; and at
 "the present hour, I would rather be the
 "humble villager possessed of the society
 "for which I so ardently languish, than
 "the commander of fleets or armies in
 "the deprivation of it. In the *camp* and
 "on the *ocean* my dear Abby has been my
 "earliest and my latest care; and after a
 "succession of more than twenty years,
 "the same wishes that pervaded the
 "first hours of love continue to pre-
 "vail. These are centered in the power
 "of living with *you* in a situation that
 "precluded the necessity of future di-
 "vision.

"No

" No more I then the lingering hours should
 " wail,

" Nor with each morn resume the plaintive tale.

" Each day with equal bliss would then delight,

" And tranquil slumbers close each happy night :

" Through every clime our loves renown'd
 " would be,

" And millions wish to live like you and me.

" W. R."

" To Capt. EDWARD THOMPSON*.

" Egmont, in Plymouth-found,

" Nov. 16, 1782.

" To alleviate female distress is the
" most exalted characteristic of the human
" mind. The widows in whose favor you
" have resumed the pen, have a particu-
" lar claim to the attention of those to
" whom your letter is addressed ; and the

* Inserted in the St. James's Chronicle ; where
the captain had recommended to the officers of the
navy, the allotting two per cent. of their prize-
money as an addition to the pensions of naval
widows.

" breast

"breast that does not feel the inclination
 "to relieve them, is unworthy the con-
 "nection they were formed to supply.
 "It is to *second* you, Sir, in such a lau-
 "dable effort that I have hazarded these
 "observations, and to wish you the suc-
 "cess which your persevering labors so
 "eminently deserve.

"I fear the remittances you mention
 "will not in this view, at so late a period
 "of the war, be adequate to the amount
 "of your wishes; and would therefore
 "with deference propose, that such other
 "means may be adopted as further con-
 "sideration may be found to suggest.

"It is submitted to the consideration
 "of Government, whether the number of
 "widows-men might not be *doubled* (espe-
 "cially in time of peace) without any in-
 "convenience to service*.

"I am, Sir, your most obedient servant,
 "W. RENWICK."

* The writer was happy to find this advice at-
 tended to, in the adoption of the recommended
 addition.

" To Mr. R*****.

Berwick, Nov. 17, 1782.

" Since the arrival of dispatches from
 " Lord Howe, I have waited in anxious
 " expectation to hear from my dear Mr.
 " R*****; of whose welfare the private
 " letters from other quarters cause me to
 " be the more apprehensive. Let me
 " therefore beg you will write me the
 " moment this reaches you, and set my
 " throbbing heart at ease.

" I am obliged to you for your atten-
 " tion to the period of which Miss B——
 " will give you the earliest intelligence.

" Believe me your ever faithful

" ABBY."

To Mrs. R*****.

" Plymouth-sound, Nov. 22, 1782.

" Unfavorable dreams have increased
 " the solicitude expressed in the letters to

G

" which

" which there has not yet been time to re-
 " ceive an answer. These I trust are but
 " the delusive images of a mind that has
 " long been estranged to tranquil re-
 " pose. At the same time they tend to
 " evince there is an extent of sorrow that
 " shuns the romantic garb of poetical de-
 " scription; and that in the situation to
 " which I have adverted, I could not
 " compose the monody that might be
 " expected from me. However splen-
 " did I might wish the fabrick I would
 " raise to your remembrance, your name
 " alone would comprize the inscription.

" I have to add that in times like the
 " present, you must be prepared for the
 " more distant separation that may hap-
 " pen to ensue; as however unhappy it
 " may render me, I must submit to the
 " fate that cannot be dispensed with*.
 " Were it not for you and the offspring
 " so deserving of my care, I would sooner

* The ship was already ordered for foreign service.

" herd

" herd with the brute-creation in the
 " wildest habitations of Nature, than re-
 " tain the condition with which I am
 " compelled to struggle, and which is
 " rendered the more irksome in the con-
 " tinuance of a sickness to which the agi-
 " tation of the sea has ever subjected me.
 " These, however, would be less easy to
 " sustain under the authority of less favor-
 " able commanders. I have every indul-
 " gence to expect from the humanity of
 " Captain Ferguson.

" W. R."

" To Mr. R*****.

" Berwick, Dec. 11, 1782.

" Before this reaches you, I trust you
 " will have received the information pro-
 " mised in my last. I am now, thank
 " God, enabled to resume the pen, and to
 " acknowledge the letters the first of which
 " made me extremely happy. The account
 " in

" in the papers of Lord Howe's arrival at
 " St. Helens, and the Egmont not being
 " mentioned in the number of his fleet,
 " made me conceive her to be one of the
 " ships said to have been detached to the
 " West-Indies. My feelings in this apprehension
 " can be better imagined than described;
 " and they were rendered the more painful,
 " from my knowing how anxious you would be
 " to be early acquainted with my situation.

" Your subsequent favor gave me also
 " much pleasure. To men of sense and
 " virtue you must ever stand favorably
 " recommended.—Less pleasing were the
 " emotions I felt in my breast from the
 " observations with which you closed your
 " last. I have often heard it argued, that
 " it is possible for your sex to love one
 " woman as well as another; but to me,
 " the idea of my being in the possession
 " of any one but yourself appears so
 " shocking, that whatever might be the
 " necessity,

" necessity, I should never be inclined to
" make the experiment *.

" A. R."

" To Mr. RENWICK.

" S I R, Bedford-square, Dec. 31, 1782.

" It was by great chance that I saw
" your letter this day in the St. James's
" Chronicle of the 16th of December,
" which commences by saying, ' Having
" ' by my late address to Capt. Thompson,
" ' &c.' I beg, Sir, to assure you I have not
" had the honor to see that address; but
" shall be much obliged to you for your
" opinion and assistance—as my most
" zealous motive and inclination is to
" relieve and alleviate a set of unfortu-
" nate ladies, whose situations in life de-

* It had been intimated that her esteem for the first, was not expected to preclude the second choice in which some advice was given her.

"serve more pity than the service has yet
 "extended to them; but though my mo-
 "tive is charity, yet I find it as difficult
 "to advance with that virtue to give me
 "countenance, as if I meant to perpe-
 "trate the worst action against my fellow-
 "creature. However, I will hope for
 "better things; and while I live, I will
 "exert myself to accomplish this neces-
 "sary point in justice, in charity, in ho-
 "nor of our service.

"I am, Sir,

"Your most obedient humble servant,

"EDW. THOMPSON."

"To Mrs. R*****.

"Spithead, Jan. 9, 1783.

"When I lately informed my dear
 "Abby of the Egmont's being ordered on
 "foreign service, I told her it would not
 "be 'the farthest shore washed by the
 "farthest

' farthest sea' " that could remove from
 " my breast the remembrance of those for
 " whose sake I was willing to submit to my
 " fate. Heaven heard the declaration, and
 " resolved to prove my sincerity by con-
 " signing me to a more remote quarter of
 " the globe than that to which I was then
 " supposed to be destined. Let not my
 " dearest girl be alarmed. I shall but
 " pass at a greater distance the time in
 " which the requisitions of official error
 " oblige us to be separated; and while I
 " continue to manifest that it is not in
 " the power of events to repress my at-
 " tachment to the most deserving of her
 " sex, I shall return with the earliest op-
 " portunity to throw into your lap such
 " oriental treasure as Heaven for my con-
 " stancy shall permit me to possess.—My
 " first care on my arrival in India shall be
 " to obtain the purchases which, could
 " they be made to the extent of my
 " wishes, should give you more than the
 " appearance of an Eastern princess, and

"excite the envy of the females of a St.
 "James's birth-night. But here I can
 "exclaim with the poet,

————— ' Loveliness

'Needs not the foreign aid of ornament;
 'But is, when unadorn'd, adorn'd the most.'

"While I prepare for my departure, I
 "shall deny myself every necessary that
 "circumstances will admit of, to enlarge
 "the supplies I am anxious to leave you;
 "and as I recede from my native shore,
 "the passing gales shall be charged with
 "invocations to Heaven for your con-
 "tinuing welfare.

"I lately said neither Indus could
 "furnish me with so rich a gem as I
 "possessed in *you*—excuse the tear which
 "the recollection occasions to flow. 'Tis
 "wiped away, and I will not relapse from
 "my promise. We shall yet be happy;
 "and I shall bid you adieu as the tra-
 "veller bids the setting sun who hopes to
 "see

“ see it rise, after a few hours absence,
 “ with greater splendor. The roses that
 “ denied their fragrance in the coldness of
 “ spring, shall blossom in the autumn of
 “ marriage; and while others are wishing
 “ for the separation religion has denied
 “ them, we will continue to realize the
 “ fictions of Arcadian love.

“ In the pending hour to which I have
 “ adverted I should have to fear for the
 “ charms that continue to fascinate, were
 “ you not naturally disposed to shun the
 “ gaze of admiration*.

“ W. R.”

* “ The prudent nymph whose cheeks disclose
 “ The lily and the blushing rose,
 “ From public view her charms will screen,
 “ And rarely in the croud be seen;
 “ This simple truth shall keep her wise,
 “ The fairest fruits attract the flies.”

“ To Mr. RENWICK.

“ S I R,

Mamhead, Jan. 25, 1783.

“ I received your letter at this place,
 “ and do assure you I felt great concern to

G 5

“ hear

" hear the Egmont was ordered on so
 " distant a voyage as the East-Indies. I
 " still am in hopes this destination may be
 " prevented by the favorable occurrence
 " of Peace; for War, even when success-
 " ful, to me has no charms, and it is now
 " full time that the sufferings of humanity
 " should be closed.—I am, since I left the
 " Admiralty, so little acquainted with
 " naval arrangements, that I fear I have it
 " not in my power to do you any service.
 " All I can say is, that I shall be happy to
 " contribute to your welfare in any shape
 " that you may point out to me; as I am
 " with truth and regard, Sir, your faithful
 " humble servant,

" LISBURNE."

" To the Commissioners of Sick and Hurt.

" Egmont, at Spithead, Feb. 2, 1783.

" GENTLEMEN,

" I have received the favor of your
 " letter relative to the vegetable directed
 " by the Lords Commissioners of the
 " Admiralty

" Admiralty to be tried on board the
 " Egmont in the recovery of convalescents,
 " and desiring me to send you my observa-
 " tions on its effects; to which communi-
 " cations I shall endeavor to pay all the
 " attention in my power.

" On this occasion I beg leave to ob-
 " serve that marine sickness (the greatest
 " calamity attendant on war) is only to
 " be effectually cured in the *prevention* of
 " it; and that this will require the appli-
 " cation of abilities not to be expected
 " while the rewards of service continue in
 " statu quo.—Permit me to add that a
 " pamphlet is now in the press containing
 " more effectual means, with less expence
 " to Government, for preserving the health
 " of his Majesty's seamen than is conceived
 " to have yet been published. Most of the
 " expedients hitherto proposed are either
 " altogether impracticable, or too incon-
 " venient in their application; and medi-
 " cinal compounds have been offered to
 " your attention that are more calculated

“ to *occasion* sickness than to prevent it. I
 “ am, Gentlemen, your most obedient
 “ servant,

“ W. RENWICK.”

“ To Mrs. R*****.

“ Nor *wine* can sooth the anxious cares
 “ of love ! I have for once drank till the
 “ pen trembles in my hand, yet I feel my-
 “ self equally alive to the sensations of for-
 “ row ; and in the lunacy of conjugal at-
 “ tachment, could involve the world in
 “ one general ruin. I could disturb the
 “ calm of midnight with greater vocifer-
 “ ation than the hero who storms in the
 “ drama of romance ; and I could weep
 “ like a woman, when I was no longer
 “ able to contend with the transports of
 “ my rage. Such effusions would soften
 “ the solitudes I am weary of sustain-
 “ ing.

“ What hardened hearts are destined to power !

“ Several

" Several weeks have elapsed since I told
 " my dear Abby of the Egmont's present
 " destination; yet no letter written since
 " that period has been received from her.
 " Various conjectures crowd upon my
 " mind; and the events of possibility, like
 " the visions of the night, swim before
 " my imagination. With such inquietude
 " the mother fears for the safety of her
 " darling child, when she counts the
 " lingering hours that have passed in her
 " absence from it.

" I had to introduce to your friendship
 " the respectable gentleman whose civili-
 " ties I lately mentioned; but when he
 " requested this favor, he did not know I
 " am such a miser in love as to have en-
 " vied the fly that rested on your bosom.

" W. R."

" P. S. You owe this letter to the inefficacy
 " of verses for the gaiety of which you
 " will admit the privilege of poetry."

Dear

134 SOLICITUDES OF ABSENCE.

Dear girls, come visit my cell,
And sooth the dull hours with your charms;
It cannot be irksome to dwell
Where transport is found in your arms.

Pretty creatures——

I could proceed no further; and the
Grecian bard whom I endeavoured to imi-
tate, was found to have *never been in love*.

CONJUGAL FIDELITY.

From Fair to Fair let others range
Whose breasts promiscuous passion warms;
Be mine to share (I want no change)
The bliss that breathes in wedded arms.

Here no fruition tends to cloy—
The social hour still has its charms;
And friendship still exalts the joy
That centers in connubial arms.

The medic art may form the pill
Consign'd to cure corporeal harms;
But for each irksome *mental* ill,
The soothing balm is woman's arms.

“ To

" To Mr. RENWICK, Surgeon of the
" Egmont*.

" SIR, Plymouth-dock, April 12, 1783.

" I am directed by the members of an
" extraordinary meeting of the Navy Sur-
" geons, to thank you in their name for
" your exertions in favor of the corps. I
" have the honor to be, Sir, your most
" obedient humble servant,

" D. BAILLIE."

" To Mrs. R*****.

" I have always thought gratitude to be
" more predominant in untutored minds
" not viciously depraved, than in those
" which are said to be polished by edu-
" cation; and that the simplicity of a
" composition dictated by the former, has
" something in it superior to the produc-
" tions of classical elegance.

" I was this morning accosted by a sea-
" man with liberal acknowledgments for
" the

* The naval fleets were then disarming.

“ the favorable manner in which I had
 “ taken off his leg in the Marlborough
 “ while engaged with the Enemy ; and
 “ which he had formerly told one of my
 “ Mates, the hospital to which he was sent
 “ represented to be the best-performed am-
 “ putation they had ever seen*. The fol-
 “ lowing transcript will corroborate the
 “ *latter* part of my introductory assertion,
 “ and evince that calamity has not yet
 “ operated on my temper in the manner
 “ it is usually apprehended to do. At the
 “ same time I am free to confess my be-
 “ ing often ready to exclaim with Jaffier
 “ in the play,

“ Final destruction seize on all the world !”

“ To the Head Surgeon of the Egmont.

“ S I R,—I make bould to write to
 “ your Honnour, to inform you of my
 “ situation at this time. I am in a bad
 “ state of health together with the situa-
 “ tion

* The hospital was the royal one of Plymouth.

" fion of my head, which is fractured, as
 " I can learne by the gentlemen of the fa-
 " culty here.—I am in here this month,
 " under the judifious and tender care of
 " Mr. Geach, but ftill in no way of mend-
 " ing; which renders me uncapable of
 " ferveing his Majefty or myfelf—being
 " an infirm old man, of above fifty years
 " of age. Now from your Honnour's
 " humane condefenfion towards all man-
 " kind, efpecially the poor feamen and
 " marines under your infpection and pa-
 " ternal care, I hope your Honnour will
 " be fo good as to grant me a Smart-
 " Ticket; which will be a means to get
 " me fome little provifion to fupport me,
 " as I am not able to help myfelf, and as
 " I had the misfortune to meet with my
 " accidence on board your fhip. Relying
 " on your Honnour's goodnefs, I hope
 " you will look into it before the fhip
 " fails.—No more at prefent, but remain
 " your Honnour's humble fervant,

" JOHN SPENSER."

" Plymouth-hofpital, Aug. 12."

“ The above letter reminds me of the
 “ more literary and extensive effusions of a
 “ clergyman’s son, whom chance threw with
 “ the multitude into the hands of a press-
 “ gang. On being drafted with others for
 “ service, he communicated his respectabi-
 “ lity to the commander; who bid him go
 “ to the regions from which a naval chaplain
 “ is said to have dated his first letter, and
 “ threatened him with corporal punishment.
 “ He was afterwards turned over to the
 “ ship where, in his application for medical
 “ assistance, he gave me to understand that
 “ misfortune was the cause of his illness. It
 “ appeared however, that his conduct had
 “ been irregular; but as he seemed to be
 “ contritious and of a good disposition, I took
 “ him under my protection, and resolved to
 “ appropriate to his relief the power which
 “ Fortune had given me.—Circumstances
 “ deserving of credulity, showed his father
 “ to have been in his life-time a joint preach-
 “ er at one of the churches in the metropo-
 “ lis with a vicar who was now a bishop.
 “ To

“ To the latter, at my patient’s *request*, I ad-
 “ dressed myself in his favor, but had no
 “ answer. I then adopted the authority to
 “ which I have adverted, by sending him to
 “ the hospital where I did not lose sight of
 “ him. The letter I wrote in his behalf pro-
 “ cured him his discharge.—The physician
 “ to whom I recommended him, had (I af-
 “ terwards found) complimented me for my
 “ philanthropy, and promised to pay due
 “ regard to my recommendation ; but the
 “ ship being under sail, the boat that brought
 “ the letter was told to ‘ keep off,’ and it
 “ was not received. I was not myself on
 “ deck at the time.

“ I am going to request an appointment
 “ to a guardship ; in favor of which a ppli-
 “ cation I have just been favored with the
 “ recommendation of which the following is
 “ a copy. The respectability of the recom-
 “ mender is well known.

“ To

" To the Commissioners of the Navy.

" Mr. William Renwick, Surgeon of his
 " Majesty's ship the Egmont under my
 " command, having in every part of his
 " duty shown himself worthy of the pro-
 " fessional department for which he is so
 " *eminently qualified*, and being in *every re-*
 " *spect* deserving the attention of Govern-
 " ment, it is with much pleasure I recom-
 " mend him to the particular consideration
 " of the Board."

" EDW. THORNBROUGH*."

" I have only to add that I shall not be
 " slow to communicate my success.

" W. R."

* Consentaneous are the several certificates (in the possession of the Navy-board) from the respective commanders under whom the writer has been fated to serve ; but as representations from the Secretary at War and other high authorities have shown similar testimonials to be equally elusive of the care of office and disgraceful to his Majesty's proclamations, they are apprehended to deserve no attention.

" To

" To Mr. RENWICK.

" S I R, Mamhead, April 17, 1783.

" I received your favor at this place,
 " and am glad the peace has relieved you
 " from the painful prospect of a voyage
 " to the East-Indies. The Egmont being
 " to be paid off, I wish the Navy Board
 " to consider your merits by appointing
 " you to a guardship. Did I retain any
 " influence, I would gladly exert it to serve
 " you. Having no connection with those
 " in power, I will not delude any person
 " I esteem as much as yourself by specious
 " appearances, till I can flatter myself at
 " least some effect may result from my en-
 " deavours to your benefit. I am, Sir,
 " your faithful servant,

" LISBURNE."

" To Mr. RENWICK.

" S I R, London, April 20, 1783.

" If I had a hundred hands, it would
 " be out of my power to correspond with
 " every

" every gentleman who is pleased to write
 " to me on public business. I can only
 " therefore refer you to the advertisement
 " mentioned in my last as the best means
 " of informing you when you may expect
 " to be employed ; and your own judg-
 " ment will point out, from the number
 " that are senior to you, the kind of ship
 " you may expect. I am, Sir, your hum-
 " ble servant,

" CHARLES MIDDLETON."

" To Mrs. R*****.

Plymouth-Dock, April 22, 1783.

" While others on their enlargement
 " from service are hastening to overtake
 " the pleasures of the town, I have been
 " willing to prevent itinerant expences,
 " should the re-appointment I am labour-
 " ing to obtain be allotted to the place of
 " my present residence.—I had flattered
 " myself that after having lost my health
 " in the service of *two* wars, a guardship,
 " by the indulgence of a humane com-
 " mander,

" mander, might have lessened the inqui-
 " etude of succeeding periods; but the
 " hope that for a moment prevailed is
 " likely to prove delusive, and the clouds
 " of despair rather thicken than disperse.
 " Each of the commanders under whom
 " I have served, has in terms not usually
 " supplied represented me deserving of the
 " earliest and most favorable attention of
 " Government; yet such is the tenor of
 " official replication, that I find it neces-
 " sary (if not interdicted by parental con-
 " siderations) to seek the society by which
 " the impetuosity of Fate is alone to be
 " combated. During my necessary at-
 " tendance on the Board on which I am
 " dependant for the completion of the re-
 " quired servitude, we will live retired
 " from the bustle of the town; and
 " while the crouded audience weeps at
 " the scenes of *fictitious* woe, realize the
 " tale that may suffuse the eye of poste-
 " rity.

" W. R."

" To

" To Mr. R*****.

Berwick, May 10, 1783.

" It is with the greatest pleasure, (by
 " the permission of Almighty God) I shall
 " obey the summons of my dear Mr.
 " R*****.—I apprehend it would be im-
 " proper to bring any of the children
 " with me except Betsy, whom I cannot
 " possibly leave behind. They are all
 " willing I should go, provided I bring
 " them some toys when I return.—Let
 " me know when you would have me set
 " off; and believe me your ever-faithful

" ABBY."

C H A P. XVIII.

ON further consideration, it was found
 necessary to postpone the meeting
 mentioned in the foregoing letters. Mean-
 while the writer was chiefly anxious to con-
 tinue the supplies that had always so de-
 servedly

servedly claimed his attention. Though, after long separation, he had it in his power to substantiate the glowing descriptions with which a celebrated lecturer had just announced his abdication of the "celestial throne," he submitted to the necessity which in former ages would have been duly commiserated; but from which he had nothing to hope at a period when the observance of moral obligation is no commendation to favor, and when it is expected that the man who may boast of illicit attachment, should be ashamed to have it known that he *loves his wife*!—It was therefore that in the present memoirs the writer once thought to have corresponded under a fictitious signature; but after the maturest deliberation, he could not but be of opinion that the reader who cannot feel for his situation, would disgrace the regions of Botany.

H

" On

“ On his MAJESTY’S SERVICE.

“ S I R, Admiralty-office, May 28, 1783.

“ I received your letter of the 24th instant, with a pamphlet inclosed ; and have, agreeable to your request, laid the same before my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty ; who command me to thank you for your attention to them.

“ I am, Sir, your very humble servant,

“ PHILIP STEPHENS.”

“ To Mr. RENWICK.

“ S I R, Bedford-square, May 27, 1783.

“ I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your polite letter, with the pamphlet on the practice of physic in the navy ; which I cannot pass without an acknowledgment of its utility and ingenuity : at the same time, confess my
“ sense

“sense of your great politeness for the
 “mention you have made of me. I wish
 “my merits deserved the encomium you
 “give me. My feeble abilities have been
 “hitherto exerted for the good of the
 “navy, but not with the success I could
 “wish, or the necessity of the different
 “cases deserved.—I shall be very happy
 “to do you, Sir, any services in my
 “power; assuring you, Sir, how much I
 “am your obedient and obliged servant,

“EDW. THOMPSON.”

“TO MR. RENWICK.

“S I R, Bedford-square, May 30.

“Nothing can give me greater pleasure
 “than being the means of rendering ser-
 “vice to the man of genius and pro-
 “fessional ability; in which description
 “I place your profession the foremost.
 “I did not understand that the proposals
 “at the end of the pamphlet were your’s;

H 2

“but

"but if they are, I shall be glad to be
"named with your subscribers*.

"I am going from town till the begin-
"ning of next week; when if you can
"make it convenient to call upon me,
"I shall be glad to see you.

"I am, Sir, with regard,

"Your obliged servant,

"EDW. THOMPSON."

"Dr. Buchan presents his best com-
"pliments to Mr. Renwick, and thanks
"him for the present of his pamphlet,
"which he has perused with great plea-
"sure. The doctor wishes to be better
"acquainted with Mr. Renwick; and
"will be glad to see him at his house in
"Buckingham-street, York-buildings. He
"has taken the liberty to inclose a copy

* "Commodore Thompson's respects to Mr. Law,
"and begs he may be named for six sets of Mr.
"Renwick's poems."—*Subsequent card to the publisher,*

of

“ of his propofals for publishing a new
 “ work; which he hopes will meet Mr.
 “ Renwick’s approbation.

“ Friday, June 6, 1783.”

“ Dr. Hawes presents his compliments
 “ to Mr. Renwick, and is much obliged
 “ to him for his truly ingenious pamphlet.
 “ The doctor has only one wifh—it is a
 “ very fincere one—that Mr. Renwick’s
 “ qualifications as a fcholar and a gentle-
 “ man, as well as his professional fkill,
 “ were duly regarded by thofe who have
 “ the power to beftow fuitable rewards
 “ on fenfible and deferving individuals.

“ Great Eafcheap, June 14.”

“ Dr. Lind presents his refpectful com-
 “ pliments to Mr. Renwick; has received
 “ and read his pamphlet with attention,
 “ and trusts that at fome future period
 “ that encouragement will be obtained
 “ for the profefion in whole fervice he
 “ has taken up the pen which they are

H 3

“ informed

"informed the exigencies of the state at pre-
 "sent deny them. He esteems himself much
 "obliged to Mr. Renwick for the honor
 "done him in sending him the pamphlet.

"Royal Hospital at Hasler, June 14."

"To W. RENWICK, Esq;

"SIR, Yattendon, June 16, 1783.

"I sincerely wish that the Surgeons and
 "Masters, whose services are so essential
 "to the welfare of this country, were
 "duly provided for, and will give all the
 "assistance in my power towards obtain-
 "ing such a provision; but I never
 "thought myself equal to a task *which*
 "*merits the attention of every naval officer*
 "*in parliament.*

* * * * *

"I am, Sir,

"Your most obedient humble servant,

"P. BERTIE."

"To

“ To Mr. RENWICK.

“ SIR,

“ Grampus, Sept. 23, 1783.

“ I had the honor of your letter on my
“ appointment to the African command,
“ for which I am much obliged to you.

“ In reply to your last from the Ariadne,
“ I am afraid I cannot be so explicit as
“ you may wish, as I never communed
“ with Lord Mulgrave on the subject;
“ but I believe I can give you a general
“ outline of the business, before attempted
“ by a committee under whom I acted—
“ which was, to get the sum allowed
“ without variation for the widows-men
“ that might complete the old established
“ pensions; which in war exceed the
“ sums, but in peace fall infinitely below
“ them. I therefore conceive Lord Mul-
“ grave's plan is to have the pensions
“ without variation, and that the navy-
“ expence may supply the deficiency of
“ the sums. This has been tried and

H 4

“ failed;

" failed ; but I piously hope Lord Mulgrave will be more successful in his parliamentary application.

" I have the honor to be, Sir, your most obedient humble servant,

" EDW. THOMPSON."

" To the Right Hon. Lord MULGRAVE.

" Ariadne, at Spithead, Sept. 24, 1783.

" MY LORD,

" If from my not having the honor of a personal acquaintance with your lordship the application is not improper, I beg leave to request your lordship's informing me, whether the bill your lordship is said to have brought into the House of Commons the last session of parliament in favor of naval widows, includes those of *warrant* officers, or any of them ; and if so, what provision has been made for them ?

" I am, my Lord, your lordship's most obedient servant,

" W. RENWICK."

" To

" To Mr. RENWICK.

" S I R, Mulgrave-Hall, Sept. 30, 1783.

" I this day received the honor of your
 " letter; and in answer to it inform you,
 " that the address to his Majesty which I
 " moved for in the last session of parlia-
 " ment, extended only to the widows of
 " captains, lieutenants, and masters. Upon
 " making inquiries, I had reason to ap-
 " prehend that had I extended the appli-
 " cation to other classes, it would not have
 " succeeded.

" I am, Sir, your most humble and
 " obedient servant,

" MULGRAVE."

" To the Right Hon. Lord MULGRAVE.

" Ariadne, in Portsmouth-harbor, Oct. 6, 1783.

" MY LORD,

" My knowledge of your lordship's
 " parliamentary abilities would at any
 time incline me to suppose the pro-

H 5

" priety

" priety of the proceedings of your lord-
 " ship, and I cannot but be sensible that
 " your lordship's apprehension respecting
 " the fate of enlarged claims is not desti-
 " tute of foundation: Yet as a member
 " of the fraternity professionally entitled
 " to every respect and attention of Go-
 " vernment, I cannot also but wish that
 " your lordship had found it convenient
 " to add the widows of naval *surgeons* to
 " those of the officers included in your
 " lordship's address; than whom the
 " widows of no other class have an equal
 " claim to be considered.—Permit me, on
 " this occasion, to hope for the support
 " of your lordship in an application to
 " parliament for a more general half-pay
 " in favor of the corps I have spoken of.

" I am, My Lord,

" Your lordship's obliged humble servant,

" W. RENWICK."

" To

“ To Mr. RENWICK.

“ S I R, Mulgrave-Hall, Oct. 13, 1783.

“ I have received your letter of the 6th.
 “ I certainly should have wished to have
 “ extended my application in favor of the
 “ widows to those of Surgeons, and had
 “ formed one plan in which they were in-
 “ cluded. It is needless to enter into any
 “ particulars. It was my duty to make
 “ calculations of the expence of different
 “ plans, and not to propose any that were
 “ likely to meet with objections from dif-
 “ ferent quarters. Upon the whole it
 “ was thought adviseable to stop where I
 “ did, and leave the other widows in the
 “ situation they were in before.—What I
 “ did was certainly far short of my wishes;
 “ but it was upon full consideration and
 “ from the best advice I could procure.
 “ And as I had no motive but that of
 “ humanity, I was glad to secure what I
 “ found I could obtain with the unani-

" mous concurrence of all descriptions of
 " men in parliament. I was besides in
 " some degree pledged for proposing what
 " I did, from what I had thrown out in
 " parliament at the time I had a seat in
 " the Admiralty-Board; where I had
 " turned my thoughts to the probable
 " situation of officers and widows on the
 " event of peace, and was collecting ma-
 " terials and endeavoring to form a plan
 " for their relief, as soon as the necessary
 " attention to immediate business would
 " allow.

" No person can be more sensible of
 " the merits of the corps of Surgeons
 " than I am, or wish more sincerely that
 " every reward for their past and encou-
 " ragement for their future service may
 " be held forth to put them on the most
 " respectable footing, and in the most
 " comfortable situation. My testimony
 " would certainly on any proper oppor-
 " tunity be given with the greatest plea-
 " sure.

“ sure. I am, Sir, your most obedient
“ and most humble servant,

“ MULGRAVE*.”

“ To Mr. RENWICK.

“ DEAR SIR, London, Oct. 29, 1783.

“ On my return to town this morning
“ from the country, where I have been
“ for a few days past, I received your favor
“ of the 14th. The fees for a diploma
“ will be about 15l. If you wish to be
“ possessed of this medical honor (*to which*
“ *I think you have a very good title*) you may
“ command my services on the occasion;
“ but unless you think it will be of ad-
“ vantage to you, you may as well keep
“ your money in your pocket.

* His lordship is so elegant a writer, that it is
with reluctance part of this letter is omitted, from
the delicacy that has altogether suppressed the letters
of other personages.

“ I shall

" I shall be glad to hear from you on
 " any thing that is curious or interesting;
 " and am, Dear Sir, your most humble
 " servant,

" WILLIAM BUCHAN."

" To Mrs. R*****.

" Spithead, Nov. 18, 1783.

" By a transiti^{on} of the orders of Go-
 " vernment, the destination of the Ariadne
 " is changed from Ireland to America.
 " Should I be compelled to go on that
 " distant service, I will take care to secure
 " you a proper provision during my ab-
 " sence, and promise to return as early as
 " I have it in my power.—You shall
 " know in due time the answer of the
 " Board respecting the dismissal which
 " can only be accepted in the promise of
 " an early re-appointment.

" I have formerly told you that my
 " present messmates are such as are not
 " to be found in every ship of war. You
 " will therefore naturally apprehend their
 " expressed

" expressed wishes for my continuance;
 " but you have a previous claim to my
 " attention.

" W. R."

" To Mr. R*****.

" Berwick, Dec. 15, 1783.

" I congratulate you on your disap-
 " pointment of going to America: at the
 " same time cannot but regret the de-
 " parture of the Ariadne, as you seemed
 " to be so happily situated with your
 " brother-officers. I have, however, the
 " consolation of knowing that your so-
 " briety and other amiable virtues will
 " gain you friends and admirers wherever
 " you go.

" I am happy to find your time of service
 " draws so near a conclusion. I shall
 " count every minute of that time with
 " the utmost impatience.—The children
 " are all well. Betsy grows a fine crea-
 " ture, notwithstanding she cuts her teeth
 " so rapidly.

" Let

" Let me know how you like your new
 " situation; and believe me to be so
 " mindful of my fidelity, as to be able
 " to return unbroken the kifs with which
 " you sealed my lips at parting.

" A. R."

" To Mr. R*****.

" Berwick, Jan. 22, 1784.

" Your favor of the 19th with the in-
 " closed draft came safe to hand; for
 " which you will please to accept of my
 " grateful acknowledgements.

" My heart since your arrival at Sheer-
 " ness has beat with uncommon alacrity.
 " The pleasing reflection of having you
 " so near me has (as Shakespeare says)
 " made 'my bosom's lord sit lightly on
 " his throne.' I trust in God the time is
 " not far distant in which we shall still
 " be nearer.

" Bill is infinitely obliged to you for
 " the attention you pay to his welfare, as
 " are equally each of his brethren. I wish
 " that

" that as they advance to maturity, they
 " may copy their father's virtues, and
 " prove themselves worthy of such a parent.
 " I have at present every thing to hope
 " from them. They pay very close atten-
 " tion to their learning; and spend their
 " evenings at home while other boys are
 " rambling the streets.—Tommy went to
 " accompany Harry at the Grammar-
 " school a few weeks ago; where I trust
 " they will be found to make due im-
 " provement.

" Your friends here are anxious to know
 " if they may expect to see you while the
 " ship is refitting.

" A. R."

" On His Majesty's Service.

" SIR, Admiralty-Office, Feb. 17, 1784.

" Having read to my Lords Commis-
 " sioners of the Admiralty your letter of
 " yesterday's date, desiring three months
 " leave of absence from your duty to attend
 " your

"your private affairs; I am to acquaint
 "you that their lordships have directed
 "Commodore Bowyer to give you a
 "month's leave of absence, and that you
 "cannot be indulged with longer leave,
 "as it is expected the Thorn sloop will
 "be ready for the sea at the expiration
 "thereof.

"I am, Sir, your very humble servant,
 "PHILIP STEPHENS."

"On His Majesty's Service.

"SIR, Admiralty-Office, Feb. 24, 1784.

"In return to your letter of the 19th
 "instant, I am commanded by my Lords
 "Commissioners of the Admiralty to ac-
 "quaint you, that if you do not avail your-
 "self of the month's leave of absence
 "which their lordships have been pleased
 "to give you before the Thorn sloop is
 "ready for the sea, you cannot be indulged
 "therewith afterwards.

"I am, Sir, your very humble servant,
 "PHILIP STEPHENS."

"To

" To Mrs. R*****.

" Thorn, at Sheerness, Feb. 24, 1784.

" Finding the negative permission of
 " other authorities not sufficiently protec-
 " tive, and mindful of the slippery ground
 " on which I continue dependent, I soli-
 " cited of the lords of the Admiralty the
 " leave of absence which their lordships
 " have limited to a month. The half of
 " this period would elapse in journeying ;
 " and however the remainder might suf-
 " fice those who wish not for longer coha-
 " bitation, the hour of meeting would be
 " too closely followed by that of departure
 " to afford any other sensations but such
 " as served to increase our mutual solici-
 " tude. Nor though I would have hazard-
 " ed the result of former meetings in a
 " longer duration of remaining with you,
 " am I willing to enlarge your maternal
 " cares to possess for *a week* the charms
 " which I lately said were yet young in the
 " eye of my attachment to you ; or to ob-
 " tain

"tain the gratification that can only be
 "satisfactory when compatible with the
 "welfare of the object from whom I have
 "so constantly wished to derive it.

"W. R."

"To Messrs. MAUDES.

"Merlin, at Spithead, May 29, 1784.

"GENTLEMEN,

"I desire to acquaint you that Mrs.
 "Renwick is directed to draw on you for
 "whatever sums she may want in my ab-
 "sence on foreign service; and am, Gen-
 "tlemen, your most obedient servant,

"W. RENWICK*."

* The writer is happy in having for several years been connected with the very respectable Agents to whom the above letter is addressed; and he is confident they will do him the justice to say, that although the necessary demands of a numerous family left so little for his own expenditure, he never gave them occasion to complain of his correspondence.

"To

" To Mrs. R*****.

" Merlin, in St. John's-harbor, Sept. 6, 1784.

" My last informed you of our safe arrival at Newfoundland, after a month's passage. In a few days we are likely to sail for Lisbon; where we shall continue about a week, and then proceed to Spithead.

" If in our separation the genial plains of England could not attract my attention, you will scarcely conceive me to find amusement in the dreary wilds with which I am now surrounded; nor will the novel scenes of a more cultivated soil have a greater tendency to suspend the solitudes I continue to sustain. Absence has been said to be the grave of love, but I have not yet experienced the truth of this adage.

" W. R."

CONJUGAL ATTRACTION.

From shore to shore compell'd to roam,
Though varied charms may court the eyes,
Attachment still allures me home,
Where love more powerful charms supplies,
So though, where ocean's billows roll,
To distant ports the vessel steers;
Still partial to the Northern pole,
The pointed needle constant veers.
To me it heeds not how the breeze
Impels, or droops the languid sail;
While still amid tempestuous seas
The Muse resumes her plaintive tale.
In vain the dance to mirth invites,
Convivial songs revolve in vain;
The tranquil scene alone delights
Where softer joys are form'd to reign.

Would

Would Fate the cave or mossy cell,
 With life's supplies, my lot assign ;
 I would not leave my Fair to dwell
 Where crowns were in her absence mine.

" To Mrs. R*****.

" The boat just gives me time to inform
 " my dear Abby of the Merlin's return to
 " Spithead ; where I shall again write to
 " her on the receipt of the letters I ex-
 " pect to find at the post-office.

Nov. 14.

" W. R."

" To Mr. RENWICK.

" S I R, Bedford-square, Nov. 18, 1784:

" I should be extremely happy to ren-
 " der you any service ; but I would not
 " promise too much, lest I should not keep
 " pace with your expectations. I will
 " candidly state the situation of the Gram-
 " pus's quarter-deck ; and if there is a
 " niche that will suit your son, you are
 " very

" very welcome to place him there. I
 " have fifty-seven young men ; and as
 " they rise to the few little posts that I
 " have to dispose of by seniority, there
 " can be no hope of your son's filling the
 " berth of a midshipman. Having said
 " this, you are now to command your
 " very faithful and sincere servant,

" EDW. THOMPSON."

" To J. RUSHWORTH, Esq;

" DEAR SIR,

London, Dec. 8, 1784.

" I am much obliged to you for the
 " compliments you pay me. It is not
 " likely that I shall have the pleasure of
 " meeting you in town at the period you
 " mention ; but will hereafter avail my-
 " self of your invitation to spend a few
 " weeks at the Island.

" The state of my health, with which
 " you desire to be acquainted, is a subject
 " on which I am never inclined to distress
 " my friends. It is far from being what
 " you

“ you wish to find it. My situation also
 “ is still such as admits of no favorable
 “ alternative.—We are told by writing
 “ prelates and the sages who live in the
 “ summer of fortune, that we should bear
 “ the winter of it with fortitude and fere-
 “ nity ; but this is by no means practi-
 “ cable where nature has given us too in-
 “ tense sensibilities, and where we have
 “ to feel for others more than for ourselves.

“ Believe me very sincerely your’s,

“ W. RENWICK.”

“ To Mr. RENWICK.

“ DEAR SIR, Great-Eastcheap, March 9, 1785.

“ Having the pleasure to find you in
 “ town at the eve of the Anniversary, I
 “ beg your *acceptance* of the inclosed ; and
 “ have no doubt but the very numerous
 “ company and a variety of occasional cir-
 “ cumstances will render it an agreeable
 “ day ; and perhaps lessen for a short time

I

“ the

170 SOLICITUDES OF ABSENCE.

“ the numerous anxieties that fall to the
“ lot of men of sensibility and real worth.

“ Your's sincerely,

“ W. HAWES.”

On his MAJESTY'S SERVICE.

S I R, Admiralty-Office, April 13, 1785.

I received your letter of the 10th
instant; inclosing a pamphlet entitled,
“ An Address to Parliament, on the situa-
“ tion of the Navy Surgeons; to which
“ are added, Medical Strictures apper-
“ taining to the health of his Majesty's
“ Seamen, with Observations on suspended
“ animation”—and I have laid the same
before their lordships.

I am, Sir,

Your very humble servant,

PHILIP STEPHENS.

Letters

Letters on the Medical Service in the Royal Navy; including the best Means for preserving the Health of his Majesty's Seamen.
8vo. 2s.

CRITICAL REVIEW.—“These letters solicit a better provision for the Surgeons of the Navy. *The story of Eugenius is highly pathetic and interesting.*”

ENGLISH REVIEW.—“However slow the Lords of the Admiralty may be in redressing the grievances of the Navy Surgeons, one day or other they must pay attention to them; otherwise the service must become odious, and men of ability scorn to be employed in it.—This Author writes sensibly on the subject of his profession; but when treating of the hardships of service, he speaks the language of disappointment.”

EUROPEAN MAGAZINE AND REVIEW.—
“Mr. Renwick has a just claim to the gratitude and respect, not only of medical
I 2 gentlemen,

gentlemen, but of the *British nation at large*. He has favored the Public with a variety of matter on medical subjects; and has thrown out several useful hints for the better regulation and treatment of his Majesty's seamen, which we doubt not will one day be duly attended to by the Commissioners of the Admiralty.— There is a class of men who are peculiarly indebted to the Author; we mean the *Surgeons of the Navy*. The inadequateness of the rewards which they receive for their services, seems to have been the idea that first suggested the publication of these letters. The consequence of their grievances is that Surgeons of *ability* take the first opportunity of getting into a line where they can have a better recompence for their labor. If the preservation of the health of his Majesty's seamen be an object worthy the attention of Government, the encouragement of those on whom their health depends, must also be entitled to a share of their notice.

As

"As preservatives of health on board his Majesty's ships, Mr. Renwick recommends cleanliness, the use of Indian tea, tobacco, &c. His observations on *Fevers* are worthy the perusal of any medical man."

GENTLEMAN'S MAGAZINE.—"These pages appear to be written by a man of a feeling and benevolent heart; equally solicitous for the good of the service, and for the advantage of those who are entrusted with the care of the men. His fifth letter, relative to the manning of the navy, is of the last importance to the health of the ship's companies: The subjoined remarks (for which we must refer to the *Treatise*) are truly worthy of attention. In the last letter, there is a continuation of the narrative alluded to in the second; which seems to be a mixture of truth and fable, intended by the writer to excite the tender passions."

An Address to Parliament on the Situation of the Navy Surgeons. To which are added (addressed to the Lords of the Admiralty) Medical Strictures appertaining to the Health of his Majesty's Seamen, with Observations on Suspended Animation.
8vo. 2s.

MONTHLY REVIEW.—“ Mr. Renwick warmly espouses the interests of his brethren the Navy Surgeons; who labor under many disadvantages which seem not only to bear hard upon them, but to be eventually injurious to the Public. They ought, he contends, to be advanced to the rank of commissioned officers, and their services to be better rewarded in the article of half pay: their widows too, he thinks (and very justly) are not less entitled to a suitable provision than the relicts of Lieutenants and Masters. On these heads he uses very cogent arguments; but he has not the art of drawing them to a point

a point by keeping clear of extraneous matter. We believe him better qualified to figure in the medical line. He is no doubt a good surgeon, and a man of sense and observation; and he seems to be wholly actuated by a laudable zeal for the cause in which he is an earnest, and we hope will prove a successful advocate."

CRITICAL REVIEW.—"An addition to the rank of Navy Surgeons, as well as a more adequate provision for those who are dismissed from the service, would be *highly advantageous to the Public*. We do not mean to detract from the Navy Surgeons: we have known men of the greatest humanity and professional skill engaged in the service; but we ought to add that in the late war, many procured the appointment without the ability of fulfilling it."

EUROPEAN MAGAZINE AND REVIEW.—
"Mr. Renwick, whose labors we have before had occasion to praise, continues very commendably to plead the cause of his brother-surgeons; whose services and

scantiness of pay certainly merit the attention of Government. The present work likewise contains some useful observations on suspended animation."

GENTLEMAN'S MAGAZINE.—"This Address is on the same subject which we formerly thought deserved the attention of Government.—That Surgeons in the army should be commissioned officers, and in the navy only warrant, seems indeed "a solecism." But this we fear is one of the grievances in which redress is not easy to be obtained.

"In his *Medical Strictures*, Mr. Renwick disapproves of the promiscuous use of emetic tartar and James's powder on board of ships; and next to cleanliness and wholesome air, recommends "a general use of Indian tea, the greatest cordial and most salutary medicine in the world." A warm bath is the "principal remedy" he prescribes in most casualties; as to which he coincides in opinion with the humane Dr. Hawes, though as to one of his cau-
tions

tions respecting the interment of bodies, he still dissents."

WESTMINSTER MAGAZINE.—" The benevolent intentions of this Author appeared in some letters published a considerable time since, on the subject of the little provision made for the Navy Surgeons. We were then of opinion, and are so still, that his efforts merit attention. Men of abilities and liberal education will not otherwise offer themselves to the service. And it is to this neglect of so useful a body of men, that we are to attribute the ignorance of rash boys who pass at Surgeons-hall after an examination which is a burlesque. But the gentlemen of the Hall cannot be blamed. They must pass those who come before them; nor have they any power to compel men of abilities to accept of a subsistence during war, and poverty after it.

" Mr. Renwick's pamphlet we can commend to the attention of the Public.

The animated language, his knowledge of the subject, and the zeal he displays to serve the community of which he is a member, reflect honor on his head and heart. But what are the efforts of individual philanthropy, if they are not seconded by men who have it in their power to redress the grievances in question?—It is not without laughter that we mention a circumstance which he relates, and which proves the wretched shifts Navy Surgeons are put to after being dismissed. One of them who began practice in the country, wrote over his door, “ALEXANDER MAC “SAGE, MAN-MIDWIFE FROM THE ROYAL “NAVY.” *Risum teneatis.*”

PUBLIC LEDGER.—“These sheets do credit to the head and heart of the writer. And although they may not move the hearts of those men of rank and power to whom they are particularly addressed, they cannot fail of awakening public attention to an important subject; and perhaps

haps on a future day, may incline some member of the Legislature to use his influence that the evil may be redressed."

To the Right Honorable the LORDS COMMISSIONERS of the ADMIRALTY. Republished from more enlarged observations, with a view to induce the attention apprehended to be for the public welfare.

MY LORDS,

HAVING in the preceding sheets mentioned the practice left to be resumed, permit me to advert to the pernicious effects of a medicine very frequently used in naval prescription as an emetic. The *tartar* of that name (a medicine of violent operation) is generally exhibited in plentiful doses, as well in acute as for chronic complaints which they eventually increase, by weakening the powers of digestion and debilitating the human fabric. Hence the maritime diseases that become

early contagious in the near communication of pulmonary and other obnoxious effluvia.

Their exhibition in ardent fevers can only be proper in the *incipient* state of them; before the blood-vessels are too much influenced by the inflammatory stricture. The disease is otherwise more likely to be increased than alleviated. Such is known to be the effect of irritating remedies applied to the spastic impulse of external inflammation.—From their tendency to increase the membranous tension and quantity of blood in those parts, there is reason to apprehend that inflammations of the brain and its meninges are frequently excited by a too late or too powerful operation of emetics; more especially where, in plethoric habits, bleeding is not premised*.

From

* The celebrated Dr. Huxham, in his *Essay on Fevers*, advises people of lax fibres (who he says are often plethoric) to reduce their corpulency by a repeated

From the foregoing considerations, it is to be wished that the preparation by which they have been occasioned, however beneficial when judiciously administered, might be excluded from a place in the marine dispensary; where necessary emetics might be substituted in less deleterious articles. If it frequently happens for several days together that, from the ship's motion on the turbulent wave, the dispenser finds it difficult to stand on his legs—your Lordships will readily conceive the impracticability of adjusting the dose of a prescription where the increase of a single grain may in its ultimate consequences not only prove fatal to the patient for whom it is prescribed, but (from the spreading of

peated use of the lancet; but as this increases the muscular laxity, and by enlarging their diameter disposes the vessels to retain a greater quantity of the circulating fluids, the error of such advice is sufficiently apparent: hence those who adopt it generally become leucophlegmatic, or dropical.

febrile

febrile contagion) to the ship's company at large*.

The same interdiction is perhaps eventually necessary with regard to the fever-powders which, when the nature of a man of war is considered, can only be proper in a warm state of the atmosphere. Indeed I cannot, even on shore, allow this celebrated quackery (so uncertain in its manner and extent of operation) the recommendation that has been given to it; however authorized, together with more baneful compositions, by the exigencies of the State. One cure with a dangerous remedy occasions a dozen of miscarriages in the promiscuous use of it. I have, in a former publication, mentioned the speedy removal of a putrid fever by immersion in cold water; but the same remedy would

* The writer formerly advised an ointment to be left out of the naval chests the irritation of which has discharged thousands from every future service, and sent many pensioners to the chest at Chatham.

be frequently fatal in a general application of it ; as it would have proved to the patient spoken of, had his natural stamina been less happily fortified*.

In a publication on the best means for preserving the health of his Majesty's seamen (those brave defenders of their king and country) I formerly observed that, next to cleanliness and wholesome air obtained in the manner recommended, the most effectual would be found in a general use of Indian tea—the *greatest cordial and most salutary medicine in the world*. Nothing, it was said, so powerfully discharges

* The same strength of constitution had occasioned the disease to be the more impetuous. Hence febrile maladies prove less ardent in the sex whom nature has wove in materials of finer contexture : to which, and the animal spirits being more exalted, they owe those finer feelings and perceptions so conspicuous in them, and which are apprehended to indicate their superiority of happiness in a future state.

by

by perspiration and other secretions the noxious particles that serve to engender the scurvy and other malignant diseases, arising from a contaminated state of the blood. It has also an early tendency to alluage the increased circulation occasioned by the ebriety to which seamen are so subject, and which is a frequent cause of marine distemperature. On the contrary the febrile impulse will be accelerated by the emetics that have been mentioned, unless the tension of the vessels be relieved by previous venesection.

Though the *general* use of the aliment adverted to should be disapproved, it was submitted to Government whether it ought not to be allowed to the sick. No kind of diet is so grateful to seamen when indisposed, and those who obtain it generally become the soonest well. It would also be found less expensive to the State than the adopted restoratives that are taken
with

with reluctance, and to little effect. Sedentary people on shore, and those who indulge in animal food, ought to use it very liberally; as it essentially corrects and discharges the humours which intemperance and want of exercise have a tendency to accumulate. It is true that those who lived before the introduction of this celestial plant were stronger than their successors of the present age; but there was not then the same occasion for it.—It affords an excellent regimen in the gout; and will contribute more to the prevention of that constitutional disease, than all that the most eminent writers have offered on the subject.

I am, my Lord,

Your Lordships,

Most obedient servant,

W. RENWICK.

To

To the Right Hon. WILLIAM PITT.

The Author presents his compliments to Mr. Pitt, and requests his acceptance of the inclosed pamphlet.

Merlin, at Spithead, April 9, 1785.

To WILLIAM RENWICK, Esq;

Mr. Pitt presents his compliments to Mr. Renwick, and thinks himself much obliged to him for the pamphlet which he had the honor of receiving from him.

Downing-street, Friday, April 14.

To Mr. RENWICK.

S I R, Portland-place, May 10, 1785.

At my return to town last week, I received your letter with the address accompanying it; which I have read with much satisfaction, as doing you great credit both in your profession and as an author.—I am sorry to see you still continue in a station so very inferior to your merit, and so little

COR-

corresponding with your wishes. Your claims to notice you have always expressed with becoming modesty; and I therefore the more regret that sincere as my intention was to serve you, I could only show it in a manner very inadequate to your just pretensions.—I am now a private man; having no connections that can be useful to any servant of the public: but I still remain, with great regard, Sir, your most obedient humble servant,

LISBURN.

To Mrs. R*****.

Spithead, May 14.

I am sorry to acquaint my dear Abby, that notwithstanding the various compliments I have been honored with, I am fated to return to Newfoundland. My feelings in this necessity are too impetuous for description; and I might seek an oblivion within the threshold of Government, were your own sensibilities less interested in the sequel.

My

My Agents are again directed to favor the demands you will be free to supply in my absence; and I shall carry across the Atlantic a continuance of the fidelity which the command of every other Female could not alienate. W. R.

S O L I C I T U D E.

The heart that throbs with latent woe,

Reluctant eyes the morning ray;

Nor when nocturnal vespers glow,

• Regrets the loss of parting day.

Come, drowsy night, and shed the balm

That soft suspends each anxious care;

Oblivious come, and quickly calm

The pensive tumults of despair.

If midst thy wondrous magic power

Excursive Fancy still should roam,

Restore the dear domestic hour

Where mutual love invites me home.

Though twenty years their months have told

Since I possess'd her virgin charms,

I yet would lose the world to enfold

The faithful Fair within my arms.

Bright

Bright as the star of Evening glows,
 Her lucid orbs appear ;
 Upon her cheeks the blushing rose
 Blooms fresh throughout the year.

Mild as the breath of vernal gales,
 Her voice—each whispering sigh ;
 More soft than oriental tales,
 The strains her lips supply.

To Mr. R*****.

Berwick, Nov. 4, 1785.

Both my dear Mr. R*****'s letters from America have been received, and I trust in God that this will early reach you at Portsmouth. We are all very happy in the expectation of seeing you shortly after.—I waited so long for your first favor, which did not arrive till September, that I apprehended the season too far advanced to overtake you at Newfoundland.

We have all enjoyed a pretty good state of health since you left England,
 till

till about the middle of last month; when Harry was attacked with the measles, then Tommy and Andrew; and last week, Arthur and Betsy. They had all of them a very alarming cough, and their eyes were much affected. I think the fever run highest in Betsy.—I paid particular attention to your direction in giving them early physic; and they are all now as well as they were before they had the disease.

We have lately had as strong a canvas here as if it had been the eve of an election. The particulars are reserved for my next.—Let me hear from you as soon as you receive this, and believe me to be your ever-faithful

ABBY.

To the Earl of LISBURNE.

Merlin, at Spithead, Nov. 16, 1785.

MY LORD,

I received your lordship's letter of the 10th of May at an hour in which I would have parted with opulence and
empire

empire to forego the voyage that admitted of no alternative. The last anchor having lost the ground, I had then no opportunity to acknowledge the obligation I have ever assigned to the honor of your lordship's correspondence. On my return to England, I beg leave to thank your lordship for the polite terms that conveyed your approbation of a performance the object of which has I trust been attended to by Government. If in the retrospect of *other* considerations I do not feel the gratification they usually supply, it is for reasons assigned in the publication to which they appertain. Were I alive to sensations that flattered my vanity, I should be essentially interested in the judgement of your lordship.—I receive as I ought to do your lordship's concern for the continuance of my situation; and am, my Lord, your lordship's obliged and most obedient servant,

W. RENWICK.

To

To Mr. R*****.

Nov. 22, 1785.

The welcome tidings of your safe arrival in England diffused a joy through my whole frame that can be easier felt than described. I trust it will not be long before you increase that felicity by your presence. Instead of urging the letters you expect to receive from me, I should have been more gratified had you intimated they would not be necessary. Should you exceed the period in which you promised to leave Portsmouth, I shall be much in the pet.

A. R.

To Mrs. R*****.

Spithead, Dec. 2, 1785.

My dear Abby writes as if in the meeting I am so anxious to expedite, I had but to consult my own inclination. Were this fortunately the case, I had personally manifested

manifested the arrival you congratulate, before even the new mails could have brought you that intelligence. At the same time, I am perfectly convinced of the reciprocation that is so agreeable to me.

I have often had occasion to observe that your enjoyment of the indispensable requisites of life, was ever the first object of my consideration. Hence it is that amidst the impatience of the present hour, I am inclined to act with the caution that is necessary. If I promised to be with you in a few days after my return from America, it must have been *provisionally*; nor will I linger in the use of the liberty I am seeking to obtain.

Since writing the above, the Merlin is ordered to Sheerness to be paid off. In the anticipation of further service, I have on this occasion to regret the loss of a commander whose civilities have not been inferior to those I have formerly mentioned in favor of others, and who has so long

K

treated

treated me with the respect by which
my situation has been rendered the less
irksome.

W. R.

*On the Engagement between two of his Ma-
jesty's ships and a Squadron of the Enemy
commanded by Paul Jones.*

From war's malignant reign what evils flow ;
Eventful parent of each tragic woe !

How many fathers grieve for children slain !

How many sons lament their fires in vain !

How many widows fruitlessly deplore

The husbands fated to return no more !

Commerce and arts the hostile zera mourn,

And towns and cities undistinguished burn.

Hence antient lore from Eastern empires fled,

And dreadful ruin o'er each region spread ;

Regions no more with envied bulwarks crown'd,

Nor o'er the world triumphantly renown'd.

Now ceas'd the rage of inauspicious gales,

And gentle breezes spread the sleeping sails.

Amid the expansive deep, with early day,

As optic tubes enlarg'd the visual ray,

Where

Where native skies shone tranquil and serene,
 Not distant far the British cliffs were seen.
 While round the languid and exhausted crew
 The grateful tidings animating flew,
 A hostile fleet the observant watch descries,
 And in pursuit the British Squadron flies:
 Their wonted power commanding ships assume,
 And signals wave the fated warrior's tomb.

Now o'er the billows, from her tranquil throne,
 The argent queen of night serenely shewn,
 When (hostile met) the closing ships engage,
 And urge the battle with increasing rage.—
 No piteous pang the doubtful war impedes:
 With frantic zeal the desperate fight proceeds.
 High on their staffs in conflagration blaze
 The pendent flags the dreadful scene displays;
 While death-devouring flames impetuous rise,
 And clouds of sulphur darken all the skies.
 As when o'er heaven's expanse loud tempests roll
 That shake the firmament from pole to pole,
 The thundering strife awakes the shores around,
 And distant vales with awful voice resound.

How happy now the humble peasant's lot
 Who sleeps secure within his peaceful cot;

196 SOLICITUDES OF ABSENCE.

Where no vindictive jars his rest assail,
Nor storms annoy when boisterous seas prevail.

While softer cares resign to dire alarms,
And imag'd conquest still excites to arms,
Should but one spark the magazine pervade
Where death's explosive composition's laid,
One general fate would to eternal sleep
Consign the hapless tenants of the deep.
Such was the tragic scene that late befel
On Gallia's coast the ship that fought so well;
The scene that swept at once from mortal view
The gallant FARMER and his valiant crew.

Resume, my muse, the elegiac strain
Where later combat dyes the liquid plain.
Again the bursts of cannon rend the sky,
Dreadful again the distant shores reply;
While spreading fires amid the gloom of night
Emit an awful and tremendous light.—
But vain with *numbers* courage would oppose;
The tragic scene compell'd at length to close.

Had then some messenger, with kindly aid,
The wish'd-for letter to my hands convey'd,
The acquisition with celestial power
Had sooth'd the anguish of the eventful hour.

Not

Not then so sadly had I fix'd my eye
Where the lessening land renew'd each painful
sigh ;

Not then, while traversing the watery way,
So mourn'd the adverse fortune of the day.

O THOU ! whose powerful arm directs the
chain

That winding leads to pleasure or to pain,
To whose Eternal Sovereignty alone
The events of time and Fate's decrees are known,
May happier minutes waft me to the shore
Where adverse fortune shall be felt no more.

TO JACOB WILKINSON, Esq ;

S I R, King-street, (Tower-hill) Dec: 28, 1785.

While I was busied in the resump-
tion of lucubrations appertaining to a
service that has long disgraced the Bri-
tish Empire, I had the honor to receive
your letter respecting the canvas in
which you request me to support the
election of a candidate whose pertinent

address had previously received my approbation.

Inclined as I have ever been to render you the services I would have denied to others, I readily, Sir, comply with your solicitation; provided the gentleman you mention is inclined to support a Minister who, in the arduous efforts to emancipate the nation from the difficulties occasioned by an unfortunate war, has proved himself so happily qualified for the exalted station in which he presides, and so extensively deserving of the thanks of his country.

I am, Sir, your most obedient servant,

W. RENWICK.

To Mr. RENWICK.

S. J. R. Manhead, Jan. 2, 1786.

I have received both your letters; that of a former date directed to Portland-place, and the last of December the 29th. Having been sometime at Bath for the recovery

recovery of my health, I have been quite unable to attend to any business, or should sooner have acknowledged them. From whatever quarter you may be served, it will give me great satisfaction to see you in the state of ease and comfort which if I could not effect, I showed at least a sincere disposition to do you every good office in my power. Whether that may entitle my interest at Berwick to your support, I submit to your judgement.—As to any address to me in my parliamentary capacity, it will be of little avail; as I am now a private man, and to be considered only in that view.

I am, with great regard, Sir, your faithful humble servant,

LISBURN.

On his MAJESTY'S SERVICE.

SIR, Admiralty-office, Jan. 27, 1786.

I have communicated to my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty your let-

ter of the 21st instant, inclosing a pamphlet entitled, "A Second Address to Parliament on a subject of the first consequence to the welfare of the State," and requesting to be appointed Surgeon of one of the *guardships*; and in return I am to acquaint you, that your application for employment should be to the Navy-Board; the appointment of Surgeons being vested in them.

I am, Sir,

Your very humble servant,

PHILIP STEPHENS*,

* The application mentioned in the above letter did not request an *appointment*, but a recommendation to the Board where other efforts for such a provision had been ineffectual.—A *vacbi only* was accommodated to the circumstances that have been delineated; not requiring attendance, and those who enjoy such appointments being generally private practitioners on shore. Retention, like that of *guardships*, is now but for three years.

A Se-

A Second Address to Parliament on a Subject of the First Consequence to the Welfare of the State, 8vo. 1s.

MONTHLY REVIEW.—“ Mr. Renwick, with laudable zeal, still continues to press forward with his solicitations in favor of the Navy Surgeons and of their widows. Every humane reader will naturally wish success to such well-meant exertions.”

CRITICAL REVIEW.—“ In a former volume we gave our opinion of the *first* Address. The purport of the second (in which the digressions are not so numerous) is the same; but while its object is equally important and deserving of attention, we can only wish the Author success, without flattering him with the prospect of obtaining it.”

NEW LONDON MAGAZINE.—“ The Author of this Address pleads for an addition to the rank of Navy Surgeons, as well as a more adequate provision for those

who are dismissed from the service; and he endeavours to show that the adoption of such measures would be highly advantageous to the Public, by making that department more generally respectable, so as to attract more able men of the profession. We believe it would: for, as Mr. Renwick observes, the abilities of workmen (of whatever description in the community) are generally in proportion to the wages assigned them.

“The language of the Address is elegant and respectful; while the sentiments of the writer are liberal and humane†.”

TO THE TWO HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT*.

MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,

His Majesty, in his Royal Speech from the Throne, having been graciously pleased

* Near two hundred copies of this Address were, at the Author's expence, transmitted to the Members of both Houses previous to publication.

† Published in the St. James's Chronicle.

to recommend to your particular attention a suitable provision for maintaining our naval strength on the most secure and respectable footing, permit me to express my trust that the redress of grievances I have endeavored to delineate, will be considered as highly essential to the accomplishment of his Majesty's paternal wish; and the more especially as, from his Majesty's information, the resources of the State are sufficiently competent for effecting an object the procrastination of which has so long been unfavorable to the humanity and political interests of the empire. The concurrent opinions of the courts of literature and the most distinguished commanders enable me to say this with the greater confidence; and in the success they have wished, I shall not regret the labors or expence so happily applied to the public welfare.

I am, my Lords and Gentlemen, your very
humble servant, WILLIAM RENWICK.

Berwick upon Tweed, Feb. 24, 1786.

To

To the KING.*

SIR,

Permit an Individual who has had the honor of submitting to Parliament, two dissertations on that important subject, to thank your Majesty in the name of the public at large and your Majesty's seamen in particular, for your Royal recommendation of a due attention to the naval strength of the Empire. Long, most gracious Sovereign, have been the complaints of humanity, where the tragedies of war have called for the medical aid to which the discouragements of service have not been sufficiently favorable. Hence additional millions to the public debt in the supply of necessary re-inforcements; and hence, in the multiplication of unfortunate-relicts and dependents, the eventual

* Published in the St. James's Chronicle, and copied into other papers.

increase

increase of prostitutional intercourse and felonious depredation.

I am, may it please your Majesty, the more ardent in the promulgation of these conspicuities, from the probability of events by which such evils will be further enlarged. In the commiseration of the human race, a long continuance of the general tranquillity is religiously to be wished; but there are reasons for apprehending that the present calm, in the political atmosphere of commercial nations, will be found prelusive to storms in which the reduction that has been noticed will be rendered the more impracticable. Deign then, Royal Sir, to assign to a department of the first professional respectability the rank allowed to the same department in *regimental* service, and to extend the rewards which in their present amount are so dishonorable to the dignity and opulence of your Majesty's dominions. Your Majesty's domestic virtues will not refuse me the liberty of further soliciting your royal con-

consideration in behalf of the unfortunate widows, whose receipts, from the errors of indiscriminate arrangement, are in the same unfavourable situation*.

To Pardon, most gracious Sovereign, the advances that have been made with a view to redress the claims of service, and to deprecate the evils on which I have wished for the power of personally animadverting in the phraseology most consentaneous to the language of Parliament.

WILLIAM RENWICK.

* This has since been considered by Parliament, and a stationary provision established. Whether allowing thirty pounds a-year to the widows of Masters and only twenty to those of Surgeons, be likely to supply the encouragement that has been adverted to, is submitted to the further consideration of the Legislature.

to

To DR. RENWICK:—

DEAR SIR, Hemmingford, March 6, 1786.

After various enquiries, I am truly sorry to find that neither I nor my friends can point out where you can settle with any prospect of success. I have yet to write to some correspondents in Norfolk and in Scotland; and should they give any encouragements, will communicate them to you.—I was in hopes that the honors derived from your late publications would have procured you some substantial advantage; but this is an age in which impudence and not merit gains the prize.

I shall at all times be happy to hear from you; and if ever you should come this way, I hope you will make my house your home; as nothing can give me greater pleasure than the conversation of one I so much esteem. *That* esteem was first founded on reading the narrative of your misfortunes, and has since been cemented by the pleasure of your personal acquaintance.

Mrs.

Mrs. O—— joins in best compliments to you and Mrs. Renwick; and believe that I am, Dear Sir, Your faithful humble servant,

THOMAS O——*

To Mr. RENWICK.

SIR, Portland-place, March 9, 1786.

At my coming to town about the close of last month, I received your second Address to Parliament on a subject in which your talents as a writer, and your feelings

* Left this correspondent should be thought to arraign the conduct of Government, his name (which is respectable) is suppressed from the delicacy that has been antecedently adverted to. At the same time the writer is free to confess, that were it not for the deformity of vice and the retributions of futurity, all mankind ought to be villains.

———“Honest men
“Are the soft easy cushions on which knaves
“Repose and fatten.”

VENICE PRESERVED.

for

for a body of men so useful and necessary to the public service, are equally conspicuous. I wish in this season of peace Government might be induced by the arguments you use, to make a more competent provision for them, and put them upon a more respectable footing.

Your's and your Son's intended favors to General Vaughan will meet with every due acknowledgement, of which he will himself assure you; concurring with me in every sentiment of regard to you.

I remain, Sir, your faithful and obliged servant,

LISBURN.

TO MR. RENWICK.

DEAR SIR,

I should have applied to you for the favor of your vote and interest much earlier, if my brother the Earl of Lisburne had not written to you on that subject. I shall always be disposed to show you every mark
of

of regard; acknowledging with my best thanks your's and your Son's intended favors, as also the satisfaction I received from your late ingenious publication.

I am, Dear Sir, most faithfully your's,

J. VAUGHAN.

To the Hon. GENERAL VAUGHAN.

S I R, Berwick, March 16, 1786.

I have to acknowledge the receipt of the letter you did me the honor to write on the 8th instant. I am willing to believe that the communications to which you allude have not been mis-understood; and that they will not be esteemed the less for the difficulties which remain to be alleviated. Reasons I am compelled to regard, will only permit me to say I shall be happy to have it in my power to continue the services I have ever evinced my inclination to supply. When, in my future disposal of them I anticipated the approbation of your noble Brother, it was from a conviction

tion

tion of his Lordship's liberality, and a confidence in his professed regard for my welfare.

I am, Sir, your most humble and obedient servant,

W. RENWICK,

To the PARLIAMENT OF GREAT BRITAIN*.

"And each Review asserts the important tale."

MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,

I am happy to find the attention I have had the honor to solicit, so generally adjudged as extensively essential to the welfare of the State. And although the present Session has been unfavorable to its attainment, I am confident you will not forget, in the interval of your recess, the circumstances that will meet your return to Parliament; before which period I trust we shall not re-experience the inefficacy of treaties which, however commercially

* Transcribed from the Public Advertiser.

reciprocated

reciprocated, or accompanied with assurances of continuing amity, have always been found so temporary and delusive. It is only in time of tranquility that the public burthens can be alleviated; but there is reason to believe that the resumption of hostilities is at no remote distance. How far we are prepared to meet the returning evil, may be a subject of future investigation.

I am, my Lords and Gentlemen, your most obedient servant,

WILLIAM RENWICK.

Berwick upon Tweed, June 5, 1786.

To the COMMISSIONERS of his MAJESTY'S
NAVY.

GENTLEMEN,

Queen-street, June 11, 1786.

I thank you for the appointment in which if I should not now give the satisfaction you know me to have formerly supplied, it will be owing to circumstances that

that will ultimately have the public commiseration.

I am, Gentlemen, your obliged humble servant,

W. RENWICK.

To the Earl of LISBURN.

MY LORD,

Plymouth, June 23, 1786.

I beg leave to acquaint your lordship that I am now Surgeon of his Majesty's ship the *Druid*; where I shall be happy to hear that your lordship is returned from the Continent in perfect health.

Although mental depression and the nature of the entertainment did not permit me the honor of dining with General Vaughan at his last public dinner in Berwick, I trust it has been sufficiently understood I was at the General's service on the terms from which the present hour does not permit me with propriety to depart, and from which it will be obvious I can only

214 SOLICITUDES OF ABSENCE.

only recede in the abrogation of their previous extension.

I am, my Lord,

Your lordships very humble servant,

W. RENWICK.

To the Right Hon. the LORDS COMMISSIONERS of the ADMIRALTY.

MY LORDS,

Druid, June 24, 1786.

I trust I shall not depart from the propriety I wish to observe if, to deprecate the sequel that would affect your lordships, I beg leave to mention that appointments to *yaebts* are apprehended to be in the gift of your lordships; and that the republic of letters have adjudged claims which it remains for your lordships to ratify.

I am, my Lords, your Lordships' most humble and obedient servant,

W. RENWICK.

On

On His MAJESTY'S SERVICE.

S I R, Admiralty-Office, June 28, 1786.

In return to your letter of the 24th instant, I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to acquaint you, that the appointment of Surgeons of the yachts, as well as all other ships, is vested in the Navy Board.

I am, Sir, your very humble servant,

PHILIP STEPHENS.

On reading Mr. Burney's history of Music.

RECITATIVE.

To sooth the passions and their rage controul,
When plaintive ills exagitate the soul;
With grateful cadence to serene the breast,
And lull each mental malady to rest,
Soft music's pow'rs (the med'cine of the mind)
Inspir'd the earliest ages of mankind.
By these has Burney's sapient pages told
What cures were wrought in centuries of old;
When Lydian movements balm'd each human woe,
And bade despair with expectation glow.

AIR.

While in some lone sequester'd dell,
 Remote from public view,
 Despair would bid the world farewell,
 And life itself adieu;
 Come, radiant hope, refulgent come,
 And softer lays inspire;
 Come, virgins, bid each grief be dumb,
 And tune the warbling lyre.

To Mr. R*****.

Berwick, June 29, 1786.

My dear Mr. R*****'s favor from Plymouth has been received; and while I regret the distance which again lies between us, I desire to be thankful that you have reached the end of your journey without meeting with any accident.

The anxieties you complain of are not unreciprocated. But let me entreat my dear Mr. R***** to be as chearful as possible—both for your own sake, your family's sake, and mine—and I will promise
 to

to do my utmost. I am never so little mistress of fortitude as when I reflect on the suppression of that vivacity by which alone I can myself be animated.

The children are all well. My dear little Betsy is often talking of her "papa!" She solicits me much to go and live at London. She thinks she would be nigh you there.—She says to me the other day, "Do you love, pah, mamma?" "No, I *don't* love him." "O *do* love him, mah; and I will love *you*."—The rest desire to be remembered to their dear father, and are all gratefully sensible of your attention to them.

Write to me as often as you find it convenient.

A. R.

MENTAL PERTURBATION.

Nature furcharg'd can but the evil bear
While hope continues to preclude despair;
And oft *impetuous* the emotions flow
Where mutual love sustains reciproc woe.

L

Had

Had when, with more than frantic grief oppress'd,
 I push'd the Fair reluctant from my breast ;
 When round my neck suffus'd in tears she lay,
 And now releas'd and now restrain'd my stay ;
 On each retiring arm alternate fell,
 And still prolong'd the parting word farewell :
 Had then, regardless to extend his power,
 Some callous Statesman ey'd the painful hour ;
 The polish'd steel, subservient to my rage,
 Had doom'd the sequel to some tragic page.
 Hence are the scenes that so disastrous rise,
 When some new woe the drama'd tale supplies ;
 And hence the tears that sympathetic stream,
 When o'er the audience pours the plaintive theme.

To Mr. RENWICK.

S I R,

London, July 20, 1786.

I am favored with your letter of the
 18th, and see no impropriety in having
 any of your children brought up in the
 Bluecoat-hospital. I wish it was in my
 power to introduce one ; it would be
 readily done. Each governor has perhaps
 every

every four or five years the nomination of a non-freeman of London's child, and I may perhaps have one in three years, which is engaged; therefore not in my power to serve you at present.

Children are taken in from seven to ten years of age, and discharged at fourteen.

I am, Sir, your most humble servant,

JACOB WILKINSON.

THE RETROSPECT.

Prolific o'er the sylvan plain,
 Refulg'd with vivid green,
 While murmuring fell the genial rain,
 And lon'd the rural scene;

Pensive amid the Fair I sat,
 Till flush'd the western skies;
 Nor (sooth'd with *sentimental* chat)
 I then had power to rise,

'Tis their's to give the social hours
 That most conspire to please;
 And their's the sympathetic powers
 Each mental pain to ease.

Connubial bond ! thou dearest tie
Terrestrial life bestows ;
Domestic source of every joy
From mutual blifs that flows :

O might I hail thee from the grove
Where first I sung her charms,
And Delia, sway'd by mutual love,
Receiv'd me to her arms !—

Though twice ten years (in absence ten)
Have since revolv'd, the same
Attachment that exalted then,
Perpetuates still the flame.

TO MR. RENWICK.

Mr. Addington presents his compliments to Dr. Renwick, and earnestly requests the honor of his support at the approaching election for the town of Berwick upon Tweed. If Dr. Renwick is disposed to honor Mr. Addington with his personal attendance at Berwick, he takes the liberty to request that Dr. Renwick will have the goodness to repair immediately

diately to Messrs. Farrer and Atkinson, his Agents, in Chancery-lane, London; who will take care to provide a proper conveyance, and to give all the information that may be necessary previous to the journey.—Mr. Addington begs leave to assure Dr. Renwick that application for his leave of absence is actually made, and will undoubtedly be obtained and sent to the proper offices. And Mr. Addington begs also leave to say that he should have applied to Dr. Renwick sooner, if he had earlier found out his address.

London, 5th Sept. 1786.

To Mr. RENWICK.

S I R, Southampton-street, Sept. 6, 1786.

I understand that a letter was forwarded to you yesterday in the name of my Brother, requesting the honor of your vote in his favor at the approaching election for the town of Berwick upon Tweed. I have only to say that should you be disposed to

L 3

oblige

oblige him so highly as to comply with this request, perhaps it might be agreeable to you to repair to Berwick without taking London in your way. If so, as Major Forster of the Marines has been so kind as to promise us his personal attendance, you may perhaps find it convenient to travel together. The expence to and fro, and at Berwick, will be defrayed by the Agents in London.—The election is expected to take place on the 16th instant.

I remain, Sir, your most obedient humble servant,

HENRY ADDINGTON.

It is apprehended that neither the writers of the above applications, nor their lordships who transmitted *three weeks* leave of absence, were sensible that the solicited services subjected the author of these memoirs to the early resumption of adieus which, in the possession of the whole, he would have given half their incomes to avoid. It was therefore that he had
refused

refused *a month* when longer separation had been endured; and the addressees adverted to held out nothing to alleviate such considerations. Twenty years were elapsed since he had trusted the gratitude on which he could now only rely in the preliminary obligation he had no prospect of commanding.

To ——— ADDINGTON, Esq;

Druid, in Plymouth-sound, Sept. 8, 1786.

S I R,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your favor, together with a letter from your Brother, on the subject to which they respectively appertain.

Having *conditionally* promised in a letter published in my Second Address to Parliament, to support the election of Sir Gilbert Elliot; I conceive myself obligated not to vote against that gentleman before I have demanded the information that would now render it too late for supplying,

L 4

plying, in your own favor, the services
you desire.

I am, Sir, your most humble and obe-
dient servant,

W. RENWICK.

THE SISTERS.

When anxious thought the breast invades,
And Fortune's gales adversely blow ;
Thy sex alone, sororal Maids,
Possess the power to balm the woe.

Convivial while your healths I *blend*
Displays, I'm told, esteem for neither ;
Yet I to both could social lend,
And consecrate the hours with either.

Then wouldst thou, tuneful Mary, say
The Bard for tranquil life was form'd ;
Then, Betsy, thou approve the lay
That once the fairest fair-one charm'd.

Not Spring in all her flowers array'd,
Nor song when birds resume the skies ;
The bloom that flush'd her cheeks display'd,
The music of her tongue supplies.

For

For her no season glads the year ;
 Alike the spring and winter's reign :
 For her no festive hours can cheer,
 And pleasure waves her power in vain.

The bird your cares have taught to fly
 And sportive hop from chair to chair,
 Has long forgot the genial joy
 That wings in groves the feather'd pair :

But o'er the scene the Muse still grieves.
 Oblivion draws no grateful veil ;
 Nor time nor varied care relieves
 The plaintive tenor of her tale.

So, stranger to the chearful strains
 That meet the sun's returning ray,
 The pensive chauntress of the plains
 Renews each night her wonted lay.

C H A P. XIX.

HOWEVER undistinguished in the
 eye of Government, the writer does
 not regret the labors which he is going to
 consecrate to the Sovereign of his country.

His attachment was such as those exertions will be found to manifest, and they will not appear the less loyal for being voluntary and unsolicited. Had his situation been more conspicuous, they might have pervaded the Royal closet, or extended the speech of some parliamentary patron: he was fated to move in a humbler sphere, and "virtue is its own reward."

To the SURGEONS of his MAJESTY'S NAVY*:

GENTLEMEN,

To preserve the union so reciprocally essential to their respective interests, there is in public as well as in private connection, a natural attachment between masters and servants; and hence it is that in every age and country, the troops of a Sovereign have always been last to recede from the protection they were so especially bound to supply. This adherence and defence are more particularly due to a

* Inserted in the Morning Post.

Prince

Prince who constantly adverts with paternal affection to the happiness of his subjects, and considers on every occasion the reciprocity of their general welfare.

While I have with much satisfaction beheld the fervent Addresses that have streamed from every quarter of the united empire, I am inclined to think that such congratulations are professionally due from those who are employed *in his Majesty's service*. I have therefore to request that as many of you as can conveniently attend, will do me the honor to meet me at the King's-Arms in Plymouth-dock, at eleven o'clock at noon on Tuesday the 31st instant; in order to consider of the most appropriated mode of manifesting the loyalty to which it is apprehended the several committees representing the corps at large, will readily subscribe.

I have the honor to be, Gentlemen, your most faithful and obedient servant,

W. RENWICK.

Personal Address to the Meeting.

"GENTLEMEN,

"Although it is long since I had the honor to meet you in public, I have not relinquished the efforts which I continue to trust will be ultimately successful.

"The business on which I have now taken the liberty to convene you, is for the purpose of congratulating his Majesty on his providential escape from assassination. Congratulations on this occasion from his Majesty's *civil* subjects, exceed those of any former period; and I am convinced you will esteem them to be equally due from the community at large.

It is but seldom that Kings possess the virtues which serve to distinguish our most gracious Sovereign, and which the histories of England and other empires show to be mostly essential to the general welfare. It was therefore that I felt emotions at the period adverted to which it would be difficult

difficult to communicate. They were such as occasioned me to forget for a moment the calamities with which I was more intimately connected, and which in their domestic nature must ever supersede other considerations. My concern for his Majesty was the greater, when I reflected that whatever evils may pervade the administration of government, his Majesty evidently considers his own happiness as inseparably connected with that of his people.—We should always view our situation in the retrospect of those which are more unfavourable. Amidst the national burdens which his Majesty has ever so affectionately regretted and endeavors to alleviate, you must be sensible there is no other known country where Subjects can be so literally said to sit under their own fig-tree. Our quondam colonies, beyond the Atlantic, thought themselves aggrieved when they formed the desperate resolution of seceding; but it is more than probable that they now wish they had never seceded.

“ Such

“Such, gentlemen, are the sentiments that were early subsequent to the attempt I have mentioned; though I did not as early adopt the intention which it is not yet too late to supply. Addresses on this interesting event continue to be presented; and it is better to be *last* in manifesting our loyalty, than not to evince it. Our brethren at the other home-ports and in the metropolis will doubtless unite with us; and it need not be observed that the proceedings of such a conjunction have always, on other occasions, been held to include the general assent from which you will not deviate in the purport of the present. I am the more urgent in this consideration, because I am persuaded the descent of evil is often intended to remind us of the blessings we forget to esteem*.— And here I cannot but remark the heroism

* A subsequent address from the Bishop and Clergy of St. Asaph, gave a different turn to a similar observation.

and

and humanity which, at the moment alluded to, so evidently resulted from a consciousness of not having deserved such assailable, and a disposition to regard the welfare of the meanest individual. Instead of being solely attentive to his own safety, his Majesty was anxious for that of an Assassin whom he had reason to apprehend could only be influenced by phrenzy. Not to wish for the continuance of such Royalty, would be an indication of our own insaneness. It is therefore that I do not, on this occasion, regret the expenditures which private duties have, at other times, always taught me to restrain; and if I wish for an opportunity of paying personal homage to the Monarch I have always so ardently respected, and whose particular merits I have occasionally had the honor of promulging, it is to enjoy the gratification resulting from that homage.

“ I have ever been pleased with persons who show a particular veneration for their Sovereign. Those who do not love their
King

King (unless he is unworthy to be loved) will not regard their country. Hence the satisfaction I felt in reading, since I came into the room, a short profane Address from a German poet to the new Monarch of Prussia; whose answer, from his own hand, is conceived in terms that do honor to Majesty. It is in such instances that regal greatness is chiefly conspicuous; whence my approbation of the British Sovereign's ennobling those whose merits, though not the line of ancestry, have a claim to distinction. Such condescension appears the more laudable where we observe such claims made subservient to the public welfare.

"It is only, gentlemen, necessary to add that I have prepared an Address which, if you will now permit me, I will read for your approbation."

To

To the KING'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

MOST GRACIOUS SOVEREIGN!

Sensible of the claims which your Majesty has to the affection of your subjects, they cannot but be fervently interested in whatever concerns your Majesty's welfare. Duly impressed with these sentiments, we, the Surgeons of your Majesty's Navy, humbly beg leave to join the congratulations which we apprehend were never more sincerely diffused; and which, in the consideration of your Majesty's goodness, are likely to be applauded by the remotest ages of posterity.

The further we reflect, Illustrious Sire, on the native virtues which render your Majesty's reign so easy to be sustained, the more our happy situation (once the lot of the Western Continent) becomes conspicuous, and the more we feel the attachments we are bound to profess. The affecting occurrence to which we have alluded, naturally increased our sensibility
of

of these circumstances; and suggested to us what in the possibility of events might have been our condition, had not Providence restrained the frantic effort that was so tragically intended.

May the same Divine Power which saw the necessity for a continuance of the life so essential to the tranquility of Europe and the particular welfare of the British Empire, extend to every period of your Majesty's reign the protection that has been so piously regarded. Permit us, Royal Sir, to add our dutiful wishes for the continued preservation and happiness of your Majesty's Illustrious Consort, our most gracious Queen; whose amiable disposition and exemplary merits have ever so deservedly involved the general admiration*.

* The writer is confident that was the Heroine of these Memoirs personally known to the Princess he continues to celebrate, the world would no longer hear of her sufferings.

R E P L I C A T I O N.

MR. RENWICK informs his Brother-Officers who have made the enquiry, that they are mistaken in conceiving the meeting not to have been held because the Druid was at sea on the day announced by public advertisement. Mr. R. would have deviated from his usual procedure and the gentlemen who attended found reason to complain, had he not provided against that event by staying on shore; nor does he charge the treasury of the corps with expences incurred in the pursuit of so respectable an object. The business of which they desire to be acquainted was previously explained in the public prints, and was SACRED TO MAJESTY!

Mr. RENWICK was sorry to observe the last general advertisement from the corps so improperly worded; as it collaterally charged the Minister with the infidelity of which he is believed to be incapable.

Mr.

Mr. R. however, hopes that such errors will not, on the part of Government, be suffered to militate against the general welfare he continues to plead, and in which he trusts his endeavours will be ultimately effectual.

To the Right Hon. LORD HAWKESBURY.

Druid, in Plymouth-sound, Sept 18, 1786.

MY LORD,

It is to afford me an opportunity of congratulating your Lordship on your accession to the English peerage, that I beg leave to trouble your Lordship with the presentation of the inclosed Address.

I trust your lordship received the pamphlet I had some time ago the honor of sending you; and am, my Lord, your Lordship's most humble and most obedient servant,

W. RENWICK.

To

TO the KING'S MOST SACRED MAJESTY.

MOST GRACIOUS SOVEREIGN !

Amidst the congratulations to which your Majesty has so general a claim, an Individual whose loyalty and feelings have been occasionally manifested, was early inclined to express his continuing attachment to your Royal Person and Government, and his exalted satisfaction in your Majesty's providential escape from the hand of insanity. May the remotest provinces under your Majesty's protection be grateful to Heaven for restraining the blow which, in the possibility of circumstances, might have been so eventually extended.

The tale has ever been the most affecting in the assassination of the meanest subject; but when the treacherous weapon points to the SOVEREIGN'S breast, the communication teems with increased horror, and unless some tyrant falls, a general sigh prevades the public regret. Having been always sensible of the mildness of your
regal

regal authority (so strikingly evinced in your Majesty's treatment of the delinquent) and that the virtues so universally conspicuous can only be directed to the general felicity of mankind, the consternation of the writer on the first rumor of the attempt on your Majesty's life, was equal to the pleasure resulting from its abortion. For the instant the perturbations of private calamity became suspended, and the general welfare gave a temporary solace to sensibilities that had long been oppressed in the continuance of domestic solicitude.

On this solemn occasion the writer cannot forbear to add his concern that a few individuals should so far have lost sight of humanity and their duty to your Majesty, as to endeavor to turn into ridicule and misrepresentation an event so pathetic and alarming to the Community at large. Such forgetfulness he begs leave to say is the more reprehensible, as your Majesty's perfect adherence to the laws of the Constitution

tion supplies so many advantages that are unknown to the Subjects of other nations. May the conviction of these truths, *which once gave happiness to the Western world*, have a favorable influence in the future conduct of the misguided part of your Majesty's people, and excite a due estimation of the blessings they so liberally possess.

That your Majesty, whose pacific disposition has ever been so propitious to the tranquility of Europe, may long continue to sway the British sceptre is the fervent prayer of,

May it please your Majesty, your Majesty's affectionate and faithful servant,

WILLIAM RENWICK.

To Mr. RENWICK.

SIR, Addescombe Place, Sept. 29, 1786.

I have received your letter of the 18th instant. I am obliged to you for your congratulation as to what relates to myself. It is not usual to present in form to his Majesty the Address of an Individual; but

but I will deliver it to his Majesty's Secretary of State, that your loyal and dutiful sentiments on the late providential escape of his Majesty may be known. I received in due time the pamphlet you sent me, entitled a second Address to Parliament.

I am, Sir, your obedient humble servant,
HAWKESBURY.

To Mr. R*****.

Berwick, Oct. 24, 1786.

My dear Mr. R***** may now make himself very easy on his Betfy's account; as I have the pleasure to inform him the hooping-cough has nearly left her. At her first taking it, I gave her a good quantity of black currant-jelly; which I think has been of great service to her.

A fever is raging here which appears to be epidemic. Whole families are down in it; but, thank God, we all enjoy our wonted good state of health.

Believe me your ever-faithful

ABBY.

To

To _____

Druid, in Plymouth-sound, Nov. 9, 1786.

The number of years that have elapsed since I last addressed you will, I trust, evince my disinclination to be troublesome; and the more especially, as my sollicitudes during such periods have not been less extensive than those I have formerly sustained. The resumption of my pen at the present hour, is to solicit your permission to insert in a continuation of the memoirs you formerly commiserated, a few of the letters that may be productive of emulation, and in which every part of your address will be carefully suppressed.

W. RENWICK.

No answer having been received to the above letter, it is to be feared that the personage whom the susceptible reader will readily recollect, is now beyond the

M

reach

reach of further correspondence. The writer's feelings in this apprehension are such as the remembrance of his obligations, and the pleasure resulting from an intercourse with congenial minds, will ever continue.—The letters inserted in the former part of these memoirs, are not all he had the honor to receive from the same elegant and sympathizing pen.

To Mr. LAW.

Druid, in Plymouth-sound, Nov. 21, 1786.

S I R,

I thank you for your information respecting the charge you judiciously refused to supply. The Editor may consign to any use he pleases the lines the insertion of which I would not consent to purchase with half the sum.—To tax the loyalty of a subject in a paper devoted to the service of Government, is rather *outré*; and I have not been used to pay for contributions not chargeable with the duty from
which

which the communication adverted to is apprehended to be virtually exempted. Though Members of Parliament and others are said to pay for their speeches when they wish to prevent imperfect publication, such insertions (without information from the printer) can no more be recognized at the Stamp-office than those which publishers are left to fabricate in their own terms; payment for which can only be subsequently *ad libitum*, and is probably but seldom supplied.

I am sorry you should have had so much trouble in ascertaining the decision which appears to have occasioned such long deliberation; and am, Sir, your obliged humble servant,

W. RENWICK.

In his annual addresses to Parliament, the writer has had occasion to observe that the acquisition of fame does not constitute the happiness at which he wishes to arrive. It was therefore that he would

not supply to have them made public, what he had expended in the efforts that have been antecedently mentioned.

To Mrs. R*****.

Plymouth-sound, Nov. 21, 1786.

In answer to your last favor I have to desire that Harry and Tom may be more attentive to their writing than their figures, and that the former may be sufficiently perfect in common hand before he applies to that of the law. Nature appears to have qualified him for that profession, but I fear it will never be in the power of his father to qualify him for Westminster-hall. I apprehend he is by this time in Greek; and Tom and Andrew are, I trust, duly attentive to their Latin.—How does Arthur come on in his English?—What news from Bill?—As my dear Betsey (on whom I would bestow every polite accomplishment) manifested at three years old such a musical ear in her remarks on my

my own playing, I should wish, in the continuance of her life, to make her early acquainted with that grateful science.

Inclosed are the extracts you desire to have communicated.

W. R.

ANACREONTIC.

Still flows the tale (pursu'd so long)

That marks the lingering hours of time ?

Revolves each morn the plaintive song

Or told in prose, or weav'd in rhyme ?

For once (despondent grown) I'll try

What dalliance can—what grape will do :

While *these* convivial hours supply,

To serious thought I bid adieu.

Now, messmates, brave the noisy gale

With louder song and chearful glee ;

Resume the meretricious tale,

And *fate* the lords who rule the sea.

M 3

Promiscuous

Promiscuous ire indignant pour
 On all whose hearts are hard as stone;
 May they be foil'd in each amour
 Who feel no sorrows but their own.

Adieu the sigh—each tear adieu
 Which still the night—each morning brought;
 Fruition now, w hate'er accrue,
 Shall join the grape's enlivening draught.

Attend, ye slaves, your Master's call;
 Be every maddening transport mine!
 No more shall cares my life enthrall;
 Go, bring me women—bring me wine!
 Fill me a bumper—fill it high;
 Then lead me to the Cyprian Fair:
This glass will every ill defy;
That couch obliterate every care.

* * *

Delusive both!—Boy, take away:
 No ease Oporto's vintage lends;
 Nor yonder trull, whose lorn display
 The genial flow of life suspends.

Promiscuous

Promiscuous toy may quench the flame
Which only for the instant burns ;
The rosy bowl may drown the pain
That with no ardent force returns :

But toy nor bowl the pangs dispel
Supreme feelings tend to excite ;
Nor, midst the long-deplor'd farewell,
Sustain the day, or balm the night.

Come, gentle sleep ! reflection close,
And let me share thy friendly power :
In thee alone is found repose,
When midnight seals the tranquil hour.

To Mrs. R*****.

Plymouth-sound, Dec. 29.

The solicitudes I have formerly sustained are not diminished in our present separation. They are the more irksome because, whatever I am announced to merit, I have nothing to hope for but a continuance of the fidelity I would not exchange for the treasury of Government. I can only pos-

M 4

sess

sees the world in the possession of *you*; and in wanting *you*, I am in want of every thing beside.—However general the joy of returning into port, I am only sensible of the sickly remission to which I have formerly adverted, and the receipt of favours that have ever been held in the same degree of estimation. After a fortnight's cruize, the post-office is again in view; and I shall here desist till my return from it.—

The resumption of my pen does not afford the consolation that was wished. Either my dear Abby has been unusually remiss, or some disaster has occurred of which I am fearful to make the enquiry. Five weeks are elapsed since I made the remittance of which I have yet had no information. When the *Druid* sailed, they were but three. *These* I suffered to pass without complaint. I knew that two must necessarily elapse in the interchange of correspondence. Six hundred miles

miles form too extensive a space for frequent intercourse, and I never was inclined to distress you in the earliest requisitions. — But delay is now too far prolonged, and the events of service will continue the consequent anxiety. The Druid is ordered to Lisbon, to bring over the British plenipotentiary. She sails on Monday, and there are but two days to intervene. The elements are superior to the mandates of office, but they may not determine in my favor. Contrary winds may prevail, the breeze may be fair. Your attention must therefore be the more extended. Write to me at Plymouth—write to me at Lisbon—write to me at every quarter of the world. The continuance of POWER is interested in the sequel. The phrenzy of love can only be restrained while you survive the calamities it forbears to alleviate. Events may be more early in the incapacity I have anticipated. Historians will record — the

drama will moralize—and when it is too late for redress, Posterity may profit by the tale.—Adieu!—

W. R*.

To Mr. R*****.

Jan. 4, 1787.

I received my dear Mr. R*****'s favor this morning, and am much astonished that a letter which I wrote three days after I received the draft has not come to hand. It contained but a few lines, as I had a very sore thumb at the time, and intended to write soon after; but have since been more generally indisposed, as have also both Betsey and Arthur. I am a good deal better now, thank God; and the children are also recovering.

I am not a little concerned at your leaving England. I had flattered myself the ship would not be ordered abroad

* The writer's particular feelings and situation will, it is apprehended, be suffered to mitigate the impetuosity of his correspondence.

during

during our present separation: but the will of heaven must be obeyed. May that Eternal Providence by which you have all along been protected, accompany you in your present voyage, and return you once more in safety to your native shore.

Let me intreat my dear Mr. R***** not to give way to despondence. Perfect happiness is not to be the fate of mortals. Had you been gifted with riches, I should certainly have forgot myself. To possess the unremitting affection of a husband endowed with so many amiable virtues, is sufficient for the share of one woman. My ambition sleeps in the cottage of the village-swain; and I trust we shall yet enjoy many happy days.

Should this poor scrawl have the good fortune to reach you before you sail, write me a single line to advise me of it. If I have not your answer by the due course of the post, I shall write immediately to Lisbon.

Adieu, my dear Mr. R*****! May every watchful angel guard your life.—
Once more, adieu!

A. R.

To Mr. R*****.

Berwick, March 27, 1787.

How shall I speak my gratitude to that Almighty Power who has given me a fresh instance of his goodness, in preserving the life of my dear Mr. R***** in the time of such imminent danger. From the description you give of the nature of your situation, it appears to me that nothing could have saved your ship from destruction but the abating of the storm. Then ought not our hearts to expand with love to that God whose eye surveys the universe, and without whose permission not a sparrow falls to the ground.—When I came to that part of your letter which represented the necessity of cutting away the masts, my heart died within me like a stone, and involved me in a settled melancholy for several days; not from a reflection on what my situation would have been, but from the thoughts of your being no more. My blood runs cold at the recollection of it!

but

but let me change the scene, and be ever thankful that I have yet a living husband, to whom I can subscribe myself my dear Mr. R*****'s ever dutiful and ever faithful wife,

ABIGAIL R*****.

To LORD MULGRAVE.

Druid, in Plymouth-sound, May 14, 1787.

MY LORD,

I have directed my bookseller to transmit for the acceptance of your lordship, a copy of my third Address to Parliament; and am, my lord, your lordship's most obedient humble servant,

W. RENWICK.

To Mr. RENWICK.

S I R, Harley-Street, May 16, 1787.

I am favored with your letter dated the 14th by this post, and am much obliged to you for your intentions of communicating to me your intended publication.

I am, with great respect, Sir, your most humble servant,

MULGRAVE.

THE RURAL WALK.

Sweet the fields when flow'rs are springing,

Nurtur'd by the vernal morn ;

Sweet the feather'd warbler's finging,

Where ambrosial blooms the thorn :

But more sweet to hear the cooing,

In the dale, of turtle-doves ;

Emblem of connubial wooing !

Votive pledge of mutual loves !

Or, ye Powers, each painful morrow

Sooth with Nature's rural charms ;

Or, to banish every sorrow,

Wrap me in my Delia's arms.

To Mr. R*****.

Berwick, May 12, 1787.

The sickness with which I was seized on the evening preceding the arrival of your last favor, was a prelude to what I suffered from the perusal of it. Whatever I may feel for my own situation, it bears no proportion when put in competition with what I feel on your account.

There

There was a report circulated here about a fortnight ago, that you had got an exceeding good place on shore. From what quarter it rose I know not; but I had too much philosophy to give credit to it. I apprehended that if there had been any truth in it, I should have heard from you as soon as it could be in the papers; though at the same time you may believe nothing in the world would have given me so much pleasure.

There is a passage of your letter I am rather at a loss to comprehend. If I guess rightly, you want to know what use I have made of the permission to which you allude. Here all is peace and tranquility: for I am able to assure you that I have never availed myself of that permission.

Excuse me answering further particulars; as my mind is at present too much agitated to write with precision.

A. R.

To

To Mrs. R*****.

Plymouth-ound, May 17, 1787.

My dear Abby has no occasion to apologize for demands I am ever ready to supply while they continue within the reach of my power, and am only sorry that they cannot be more extended.

You were right in concluding that in the truth of the report you mention, I should have given you the earliest information. In the usual errors of public rumour, it is probable that such report originated in Reviewers having promulged the claims that want the interference of personal interest—or in the loyalty from which my friends in this quarter assigned me the gift that would become you in the participation of it, but is not essential to your happiness.

Among other instances the following is quoted to show the superiority of powerful patronage to every requisition of desert,
and

and without which, says a modern writer, a man may plead services till his heart aches and never be attended to.—“A poor laborer going through a public walk, suddenly expired. Some gentlemen of fortune and consequence being present, and finding him to have left a widow with several children, they retired to a coffee-house; where they formed the public subscription which in a few weeks (twenty pounds being received from one hand) announced the independence that had otherwise only amounted to the trifling donations usually acknowledged to be thankfully received. Such was the effect of *banks* being opened to alleviate a case of common distress.”

Having been called away to attend the punishments I am always so distressed to behold, I do not recollect on my return that I have any thing to add besides the assurances that need not be resumed.

W. R.

Ye

TO THE FIELDS OF JUVENILE RECREATION.

Ye verdant walks where first I stray'd to sing
 In pastoral verse the soft return of spring,
 Where from the busy crowd I wont retir'd,
 By rural rapture, more by love inspir'd ;
 Whether at noon or evening's lucid dawn
 My Delia seeks the cool sequester'd lawn,
 Your greenest liveries in profusion wear,
 To charm her eye and gratify the Fair.
 Around her, Nature, with prolific hand
 Bid vegetation animate the land.
 The grassy meads with radiant cowslips strew,
 And balm each primrose with ethereal dew ;
 Her favorite daisy, emblem of her mien,
 In each enamel'd path be plenteous seen :
 Where-e'er she treads may flowers spontaneous
 rise,
 Perfume the groves and purify the skies.—
 Should clouds prevail, restrain the humid
 shower ;
 If tense the sun, extend the shady bower :

The

The cottage rear, should ardent thirst annoy,
 And from the milky bowl the temperate draught
 supply.

If near the well which wonted rites display,
 To love still sacred and the first of May ;
 (Dear month ! that to my raptur'd arms assign'd
 The loveliest, fairest, best of woman kind :
 On thee for ever could the Muse recline ;
 Transporting more than rivulets of wine) :
 If near the well where with the earliest light
 The virgin-votaries of the morn unite,
 Her steps approach—transparent may it flow,
 While pendent banks with vivid pastures glow ;
 And may her feet sustain no griev'd event
 Amid the windings of the steep descent.
 On quivering wings may larks exultive throng,
 To serenade her with celestial song ;
 From every spray be heard the linnet's strain,
 And softest echoes breathe along the plain ;
 While murmuring brooks in mazy currents glide,
 And placid waves revolve the briny tide.

For her, ye gardens, court the lenient breeze,
 And gentle zephyrs whisper through the trees ;

For

260 SOLICITUDES OF ABSENCE.

For her with blushes tinge the spreading rose,
 For her their fragrance every shrub disclose :
 Each grateful fruit in growth mature appear,
 With genial juice the lingering blood to cheer,
 That o'er her face was wont the rose to vie,
 While every lustre sparkled in her eye.
 Amid the boughs, in soft connubial play,
 May birds domestic chirp their social lay ;
 While o'er the distant vale the turtle-dove
 And pastoral bliss proclaim the voice of *love*.

If e'er that passion agitates her soul,
 Each anxious thought, protective powers, con-
 troul :

To harmony dispose each varying scene,
 And every tumult of her mind serene.
 Tell her the bard in every distant clime
 Regrets for her the lingering hours of time ;
 Still shuns in latent grief the public eye,
 And each assemblage of convivial joy ;
 Nor song, nor dance, nor Lydian airs, assuage
 The ardent transports in his breast that rage.
 While midst the billows that extend the deep
 He now foregoes the silent hour of sleep,

Suffuse

Suffuse her eyes with the oblivious dew,
 And tranquil slumbers every night renew.
 If wakeful Fancy with excursion teems,
 Let softest visions prove her airy dreams :
 With every morning may she healthful rise,
 And Fate propitious every need suffice.

Ah still must these in absence be supply'd,
 And still her presence to the bard deny'd ;
 Or soon as gain'd, life's thorny paths to strew,
 Again recede and sorrow each adieu ?---
 As o'er the mind the numerous years return
 The muse continues in despair to mourn ;
 When memory renovates the juvenile charms
 Delusion ravish'd from connubial arms ;
 When felt the ages of condensed pain
 Where vice is merit, and each virtue vain ;
 Where scienc'd lore without provision leaves
 Whom service sports, and penury aggrieves :
 When through the optics of the pending hour,
 In office fated and announc'd by power,
 Appears her want of finances to dine
 For whom the gem should sparkle in the mine ;
 When she for whom each region should unfold
 Imperial robe, seems trembling in the cold :

When

When children, hapless as their sire, complain,
 And infant-calls extend maternal pain ;
 When loyalty and love hold various strife,
 And Nature sickens for the close of life :
 Amid the scenes that thus tumultuous teem
 (Too tense for sighs to flow or tears to stream)
 Impetuous rolls the tide of mental woes,
 And every nerve with frantic passion glows.
 In vain the laws appointed to restrain,
 And all the powers of legislation vain,
 Nature, oppress'd beyond the power to bear,
 Foregoes resistance and each wonted care ;
 Nor from the dire event can guilt proceed
 Where virtuous causes consecrate the deed.
 In Fancy's eye a dagger finds its way,
 To weave a moral for the tragic lay ;
 In final doom despair bids States be hurl'd,
 And conflagration blaze an impious world.

W. R.

TO MR. RENWICK.

S I R, Portland-Place, June 11, 1787.

Your bookfeller has delivered to General
 Vaughan and myself copies of your third
 Address

Address upon the interesting subject that has so long engaged your attention, for which we desire you to accept our best acknowledgements.

I feel a sensible concern that you have still reason to complain of a dependant and uncertain situation, when your labors for the public welfare entitle you at least to ease and comfort: to which if I could in any shape contribute, I should think my best services well employed.

I am, Sir, your faithful humble servant,
 LISBURN.

To Mr. R*****.

Berwick, June 20, 1787.

I received your favor this morning, inclosing the draft for which you will please to accept of my most grateful acknowledgements.—I read your poem with a pleasing melancholy rapture, and not without shedding tears at the recollection of my dear Mr. R*****'s having undergone so much on my account. Oh that I
 could

could speak the sentiments of my heart. it would reply to you in the same elevated strains of composition. But whatever I feel, the powers of utterance have not been given me to communicate.

To me what Nature has in sense deny'd,
Shall be with love and constancy supply'd.

In contemplating the fidelity of my dear Mr. R*****, I am ever sensible of the truth of the comment before me. "An affection so unchangeable, can only spring from a bosom possessed of the finest feelings and of every virtue."— You take no notice when I shall have the happiness of seeing you.

A. R.

To the PARLIAMENT OF GREAT BRITAIN*.

Plymouth-sound, July 2, 1787.

MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,

The close of another Session has left in *statu quo* the circumstances I have annually

* Inserted in the public prints, previous to the late armament.

returned

returned to combat. As they respect the lives of Subjects and the welfare of the Empire, they are manifestly too important to be yet relinquished. If not prevented in the sequel of calamities that will have your future attention, I promise again to meet you; and hope to be followed by every city and corporation throughout the kingdom.

Meanwhile, my Lords and Gentlemen, the Commissioners of the Navy will bear me witness that the thanks of the State are due to a Secretary high in office, for the recent information that adds to the respectable testimonies I have formerly adduced, and further substantiates the grievances I have endeavored to alleviate. In the continuance of such endeavors I trust I shall experience the continued approbation of literary tribunals; and they are esteemed the more necessary in the prediction with which I closed my third Address. You have not, my Lords and Gentlemen, found preceding communica-

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tions

tions to be visionary ; and I now inform Government that Oriental invasions are already in germination.—Political like animal diseases are best remedied in their prevention. The bulwark of England is her Navy. The rest need not be told.

I am, my Lords and Gentlemen, your most obedient servant,

WILLIAM RENWICK.

On his MAJESTY'S SERVICE.

S I R,

Admiralty-office, July 6, 1787.

I having communicated to my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty your letter of the 14th of May last, informing them of your having directed your bookseller to transmit for their Lordships acceptance and perusal a copy of a third Address to Parliament, I am in return commanded to acquaint you that the bookseller has not yet sent it hither.

I am, Sir, your very humble servant,

PHILIP STEPHENS.

To

TO PHILIP STEPHENS, Esq;

Druid, in Plymouth-sound, July 19, 1787.

S I R,

On the Druid's return from a cruize, I am favored with the information of their Lordships respecting the remissness of my bookseller, and trust I shall be more gratified in a subsequent recurrence; Meanwhile I cannot forbear to express my concern for the procrastination, and to thank their Lordships for the attention in the consideration of which that concern is the more extensive.

I am, Sir, your most humble servant,

-W. RENWICK.

ON his MAJESTY'S SERVICE.

S I R, Admiralty-Office, July 19, 1787.

I have received your letter of the 27th of last month, transmitting a copy of your late publication; and I am to acquaint you that the same is laid before my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty.

I am, Sir, your very humble servant,

PHILIP STEPHENS.

*On reading Lady Craven's Dream in which
she saw her Heart at her Feet.*

Soft as the zephyrs that now western blow,
The magic strains of tuneful CRAVEN flow ;
Sweet as the murmurs of some purling stream,
The numbers glide that paint the mystic dream !
Not softer music consecrates the lawn,
When orient skies restore the vernal dawn ;
Nor sweeter accents melodize the yale
Where evening's bird resumes her plaintive tale ;
Or when in rural groves the gentle dove
Responds the distant plains with notes of love.

In some sequester'd dale, remote from strife
And all the tumults of belligerent life,
With such a songstress could I plaint my woes,
Congenial numbers might each grief compose.
Amid the lenient dew of social tears,
Recumbent less oppressive fate appears :

Than med'cine more, to balm the latent smart,
Would prove the pity of fair CRAVEN's "heart."

O did that heart the powers of STATE contain,
No more would sorrow sue redress in vain !

Not

Not then when kings contending rights engage,
 And ocean thunders with vindictive rage,
 Would absence throb with varied pain the breast
 Where sleep denies the wonted power of rest ;
 Nor mental cares exagitate the frame
 Which nature temper'd for too soft a flame.
 Some tranquil cot, the silent meads among,
 Would hence sublime the matrimonial song ;
 Elysian airs proclaim contentment's theme,
 And love no more in pensive verse distream ;
 The sigh that anxious heaves at length would cease,
 And mutual pleasures breathe domestic peace.

Delicious mourner !—whose complaints afar
 Might still the voice of unharmonious war ;
 Serene the deep when mounting billows roar,
 And calm the tempests that invade the shore.
 May softest fortune tranquilize the mind
 Where every sentiment flows so refin'd ;
 And each revolving hour propitious bring
 Delights as grateful as the verse you sing.
 The genial bed if yet no partner shares,
 By Heav'n design'd to mitigate your cares ;
 If yet the sacred knot you ne'er have try'd
 Celestial deem'd, though oft illusive ty'd ;

O may, whene'er connubial thought prevails,
 And Hymen spreads for you his purple sails,
 Some lover faithful as your heart be found,
 And every morn with nuptial blifs be crown'd;
 With equal rapture may he meet your arms,
 When summer blooms or winter chills your
 charms.

To Mrs. R*****.

Druid, at Sea, July 27.

My dear Abby says I take no notice
 when she will have the happiness of seeing
 me. Let her not resume that enquiry.
 In a continuance of the supplies for which
 she has occasion, I can submit to every
 hardship which the virtues she admires
 subject me to; but I cannot equally bear
 the idea of my absence from her. Resume
 the enquiry, and those supplies will be no
 longer in continuation. Resume the en-
 quiry, and I will set every order at de-
 fiance where the republic of letters have
 asserted my claim to patronage. Dispute
 the continuance of my affection, and I
 shall

shall complain of the reward given to the comptroller-general of the post-office. The fleetest carriages would be too slow for the conviction you may command.—But for you, I had long ago fled to the desert; to lose in uncultivated regions the barbarism of civilized society. The natives of Botany will be more savage a century hence than they are at the present æra. Humanity forsakes the wild when the standard of power is erected. Benevolence then becomes *interested*, and partiality the gale that waves the ensign of reward.

The fortune that tore me from your arms to witness the disgrace of empire, had been propitious in giving me the cave where harmony and solitude had relieved my cares. Indeed you have reason to fear lest my nature should change in an element which affords no solace to sentimental sorrow. Love is too soft a deity to exist in so rugged a clime. But however Romance might extend the similitude, the present remarks do not admit of me-

taphorical excursion. — You would have had the greater cause to be apprehensive, had I not received the previous temperament that furnished the poet with his animated apostrophe on the mental powers of your sex. You early inspired me with sentiments favourable to the passion I have mentioned, and the officers subordinate to my controul have ever experienced the same gentle treatment with yourself.

I cannot yet give my dear Abby the information she requires. Were I to represent that professional services have disqualified me for continuance, the rules of which I have complained would only admit me to receive the dismissal I am endeavouring to protract: were I to add that those services have further disabled me for private practice, and that I have nine people to provide for, I should be referred to the same negation of official arrangement. Hence my incapacity to anticipate your wishes—hence my tardiness to meet the invitations in which the

tædium

tedium vitæ can alone be alleviated, and which I would not still forego for the possession of St. James's. I am less young than when you first knew me, but my sensibilities are the same. Say your arms are open to receive me, and I could set fire to the world and extinguish creation.

W. R.

INVOCATION.

Transport me, O propitious powers,

Where no discordant tumults reign;

Assign the tranquil placid hours

For which I've sigh'd so long in vain.

Give me the mountain ever snow'd,

Give me the desert's dreary vale;

Be any clime or place bestow'd

Where peace serenes the mental tale.

Sweet solitude! celestial maid!

Unvarying friend of human woes!

Oh bear me to some pensive shade,

Where pity in each zephyr flows.

N 5

To

To the COMMISSIONERS of his MAJESTY'S
NAVY.

GENTLEMEN, Plymouth-foand, Aug. 4, 1787.

The Druid being to be paid off, and the Ambuscade to assume her station; I request, by a removal to the latter, to be continued in the resources for which I have so much occasion, till the close of the year; before which it would be too early in the season to adopt the recourse that will be subsequently necessary*.

I am, Gentlemen, your very obedient servant,

W. RENWICK.

On His MAJESTY'S SERVICE.

S I R, Navy office, Aug. 6, 1787.

In answer to your letter to the Commissioners of the Navy, I am commanded to acquaint you that you cannot be appointed

* The publication of these memoirs.

to any other ship, as your time is almost out.

I am, Sir, your most humble servant,

R. GREGSON*.

To Mr. R*****.

Berwick, Aug. 12. 1787.

My ever dear Mr. R*****!—after a cessation of correspondence for near two months, I think it high time to enquire whether I have yet a living husband, or whether you are sick or well. Not having had the happiness to receive a letter from you since the twentieth of June, and having labored under the most distressful inquietude for several weeks past, I take up the pen with trembling hands to enquire into the cause of your silence.—O my dear Mr. R*****! did you but know what I have suffered in not hearing from

* An order for the Druid's being paid off (*then in agitation*) was soon after issued, but postponed in the supervening necessity for further armament.

you, you would not have denied me that pleasure so long. You never found me unworthy of your confidence—you never found me undeserving of your love; unwilling to share your grief, and sooth your every care. Then why not write me, whatever has been the reason of your forbearance.

—"Write, oh write me all; that I may join
 "Grief to thy griefs, and echo sighs to thine."

The uneasiness of my mind has almost exhausted my strength, and every thing I do is a trouble to me. After a restless night, I rise with a little fresh spirit (hoping each succeeding morn will bring the wished intelligence) till the hour be over the post-man goes round; then again I sink into my usual depression, and drag out the day under the most painful apprehensions.

Ten days more at least must elapse before I can have an answer to this.
 These

These I shall endeavor to bear with as much compofure as poffible. If I am then informed of your being alive and well, I fhall think myfelf more than recompensed for all the anxiety I have fufained.

Your ever-faithful

ABIGAIL R*****.

To Mrs. R*****.

Caufand-bay, Aug. 29.

I have formerly intimated to my dear Abby (whose letter of the 12th is juft received) that to alleviate the expence of poftage in which her finances are interefted, I would not in future write her oftener than was neceffary, than while I had nothing to communicate but the refumed affurances that cannot avail her. She had however fooner received the inclofed, had it not been for the expectation of getting it franked, and the cruizes that turn to fo little account having lately been longer than ufual; whence the late receipt of the
favor

favor I have mentioned. The state of my mind is also often long such as disables me from writing the letters which a more favorable situation would serve to multiply, and at present give me so much pain.

I am more than sorry for the solicitude that must be eventually increasing. To prevent such uneasiness in time to come, I beg that my dear Abby will not anticipate circumstances which in their existence would not fail to transpire. Meanwhile I have to request her early communicating the receipt of this to remove my own anxiety; in the extent of which I lose sight of the children.

W. R.

To Mr. R*****.

Berwick, Sept. 4, 1787.

I have received my beloved Mr. R*****'s letters, and am amply recompensed for all the anxiety I have undergone. It is from these letters, which
show

show the extent of your affection and the amiableness of your disposition, that I look down on the grandeur of the world with contempt; and can still with confidence assert my preference of the humblest cottage in your association, to the most splendid palace in your absence.—Yes, my dear Mr. R*****! what can afford more delightful satisfaction to the breast of a woman who knows how to set a value on a worthy man, than to think she enjoys the whole heart and sole affection of the most amiable of his sex.

“Be these transporting consolations mine,

“And I the world with all its pomp resign.”

Had Fate united me to a man the contrast of my dear Mr. R*****; one who prostituted his body to the vilest of all vile passions, blasphemed his God, added inebriation to debauchery, and to sum up the catalogue of vices, treated me with the most cruel usage; what a wretched
miserable

miserable being I should have been ! The very idea harrows up my soul; and yet daily experience evinces this to be the lot of many a deserving woman. Such a husband as I can boast of does not fall to the share of every married Female.— Then how could I be easy when I was so long in hearing from you ? Nor did I once dispute the ardor of your affection. It was the consideration of the dangerous line of life you are in that alarmed me. But I still trust that the Providence by which you have all along been protected, will again restore you in safety to the arms of your ever faithful wife,

ABIGAIL R*****.

TO COLONEL HUGHES.

DEAR SIR, Druid, Sept. 29, 1787.

I am happy to meet your wishes respecting the pamphlets transmitted herewith, and trust you have been gratified in the perusal of the former. At the same time I have to acknowledge the civilities which will not escape my remembrance.—

I have

I have always been what is called a close shipkeeper, and am at the present hour not much inclined to company; but I shall ever be disposed to pay my respects at the Marine-barracks as often as opportunity serves. Meanwhile, I beg my compliments to the Ladies; together with the Barrister, if not yet returned to college.

In my third Address to Parliament (written previous to the Statholderian dissentions) I intimated a probability that Peace would not be of long continuance; the preparations so rapidly pursuing appear to indicate that such prediction was not unfounded. I have to add that although the resumption of hostilities will be favorable to the corps whose situation has so long been disgraceful to Government, I am ready to exclaim with the Roman bard,

—— *horrida bella!*

I am, with much sincerity, Dear Sir,
your most obedient servant,

W. RENWICK.

To

To Mrs. R*****.

Druid, at Sea, Oct. 4, 1787.

The poets of every age have been extravagant in their praises of a deity whose power is recommended as a sovereign antidote to mental distemperature. Though I never credited the assertion, I have often found it difficult in the number of his votaries to elude the eye of convivial authority. In assenting, a few weeks ago, to pay him homage in the Island where he is esteemed to be most powerful, I received the oblivion in which my faculties had once before been nearly suspended; and am eventually convinced that either in frantic or in melancholy hours, it is the worst remedy the unfortunate can recur to, especially those whose nerves are manufactured in the finest threads of native sensibility. There is reason to apprehend that most of the catastrophes ascribed to lunacy, are committed in the depression which,

which, like medicinal opiates, the rosy monarch ultimately occasions.

The initiation I am said to have received shall not be suffered to encourage repetition. Having never been a volunteer in the service, I am determined to preclude future solicitation and surprize, in vowing *by the affection I bear you* never to drink more than two glasses of wine at any entertainment whatever: a determination to which I am the more induced, because, in a conjunction of the circumstances to which I have adverted, the most guarded moderation will sometimes produce the effects of excess.—To extend the social junction and render the toast the more salutary, I have some thoughts of adopting the custom of the Antients in their use of the grape. The Grecian bard who so liberally unites the vine with the transports of love, exclaims in elegant metaphor,

“ Twice let the limpid stream assuage

“ The mighty god’s too potent rage.”

It

It may sometimes be eligible to improve the translation, by adding another stream to the quantity prescribed. — This will suffice me in company; and when I am with *you*, I want no other cordial.

W. R.

P. S. Wine (the origin of so many chronical diseases) having been found to disagree with me even in the smallest quantities, I am inclined to prefer the vintages of Nantz to those of Burgundy. I have been told that the effects complained of would cease on a more frequent use of the latter; but I am seldom, when at home, disposed to dine in your *absence*; and my addresses to the Legislature have shown it is not the intention of Government, that the Surgeons of his Majesty's navy should drink wine at their own expence.

THE CRUIZE.

The veil of night obscures the strand
That glimmering late appear'd in view;
While all who now reside on land,
Are wrapp'd in sleep's oblivious dew.

Each seaman too, from watch reliev'd,
Enjoys the rest assign'd his lot;
By no refin'd sensations griev'd,
The toils he meets are soon forgot.

Remembrance hangs not on his mind,
Nor antedation warps his soul;
With *grog* supply'd, he scorns the wind,
And braves the deep from pole to pole.

But wakeful proves the studious brain,
The breast where softer passions glow,
The nerve that feels each anxious pain,
The tear for ever doom'd to flow.

When midnight drears the irksome cell
Where heaves the sigh of lorn despair,
Where no soft sympathies repel
Or solac'd ills instruct to bear;

Tumul-

Tumultuous oft the senses rage,
And as revolved years return,
Impel, to grace the moral page,
The tragic blow no age would mourn.

That breast becomes the pointed steel
Which cannot melt for others' woe,
But more where guile disdains to feel
The ill's delusion gave to flow.

Soft mental love's ingenuous joys
While unrelenting Fates infuse,
Each royal port in vain supplies
The baneful commerce of the stew.

In vain the grape's convivial powers,
And all that dance or song contain;
Their tales alone relax the hours
In whom congenial natures reign.

Delightful Sex! by Heaven decreed
To cheer the pensive vale of life;
Whose smiles adorn the blushing mead,
Whose softness balms each mental strife.

Like

Like lenient skies to drooping flowers
 Amid despondent care is found,
 The grateful dew her pity showers,
 When woman sooths the plaintive wound :

Save where in nuptial bonds ally'd
 Herself the pregnant ill sustains,
 And mutual cares respondent sigh'd
 Intense the flow of other's pains.

If round the bed which love would ray
 In all the pomp of Tyrian loom,
 Chill penury meets the early day,
 And evening-wants pervade the room ;

If children lovely as the morn
 Refulgent rising o'er the plain,
 Amid their destiny forlorn,
 Implore the needful fare in vain ;

How throbs the breast—but here the muse
 Forbears to trace the maddening view ;
 While still the social hour she sues,
 The pangs of absence to subdue.

O had

288 SOLICITUDES OF ABSENCE.

O had she been more free to rove
Where Nature forms the rural scene,
The softer language of the grove
Had serv'd each tumult to serene.

With orient morn the verdant lawn,
The murmuring brook and tuneful spray,
The village-maids at evening-dawn,
Had sympathiz'd, and sooth'd her lay.

Then sweet to hear the curfew's sound,
Night's plaintive bird her griefs deplore;
Then sweet, as flow'd the deep profound,
The drowsy waves that lull'd the shore.

When winter with resumptive reign
Repress'd the verdure of the dale,
Some social Fair had flower'd the plain
Whose presence grac'd the neighbouring vale.

In vain each wish, the numbers vain
Continuous ills would still prolong;
Yet pensive will the muse complain,
Till with the *cause* suspends her song.

To Mrs. R*****.

Plymouth-ound, Oct. 12, 1787.

You have always been sensible how much I prefer a social hour with a woman of sentiment and manners to every other enjoyment. More irksome is therefore the situation that precludes the intercourse by which alone my solitudes in your absence can be alleviated. Such preclusion has been the greater in my disinclination to add, by going on shore, to the necessary contributions on board. However grateful, in respectable connection, may be the partialities I have always been slow to discover, I would not deprive you of a shilling to obtain them.

The line of life to which I have adverted has been the more unfavorable for being only adapted to the promiscuous association of general assemblage. Such assemblages do not afford the hours for which I have occasion. The detached conversation I recollect ever to have preferred next

O

to

to your own, was usually interrupted before I could resume the powers that have been so long restrained; whence the difference in submitted opinions that were afterwards found to be consentaneous.

In a question appertaining to the first letter, I found the lady to whom I have alluded, and who moved in a higher sphere, acquainted with the volumes that will only be interesting to those to whom nature has given the same sensibilities. There are other women for whom I have the esteem that has not been found to abridge the attachment you exclusively possess; and in all societies my sorrows have ever been my own.

While I am free to confess the sentimental extensions in which you will find no deficiency, I claim some merit for the restrictions (not generally adopted in maritime situations) that have been favorable to your finances, and enable me to return to your arms with a constitution that has never been contaminated in the pursuits

pursuits of pleasure or excess. Here I can only subjoin that, amidst the preparations which furnish a plausible pretext for the absence of those who are weary of domestic enjoyments, I am impatient to regain the society in which the longest day has ever appeared too short, and which I would not still forego for the sovereignty of the seven belligerent provinces.

W. R.

To Mr. R*****.

Berwick, Oct. 12, 1787.

My dear Mr. R***** will excuse me for allowing two posts to elapse before acknowledging the receipt of his last favor, when I assure him that nothing but illness could have occasioned the delay. I was yesterday better than I had been for two days before, and had sat down to discharge my duty; when I was suddenly seized with a sickness and giddiness in my head that obliged me to desist,

O 2

and

and for the rest of the day confined me to my bed.—You will think I am full of infirmities, but I must not complain: I have had a long series of good health. These little chastisements are sent for wise ends, and to prepare us for a better world. I think it is the inimitable Mr. Tickle who says,

“ The foul’s dark cottage, batter’d and decay’d,
 “ Lets’ in new light through chinks that time
 has made.”

Bellona seems again to be mounting her sanguine car. Nothing is talked of here but pressing and press-warrants, beating up for volunteers, and other hostile preparations, as on the eve of a war. I hope you do not mean to be one in the train. I had flattered myself I should have had your company these long winter-nights, but I think you intend to let them be over. Whenever I am ill, I think I am
 never

never to see you again; which makes me very low spirited.

The children are all well. Betsy grows a fine girl.—Harry and Tommy are employed in Terence and Virgil. They are promising themselves a present from their dear father.

Accept of my most grateful acknowledgements for the draft; and believe me immutably your's,

ABIGAIL R*****.

To Mrs. R*****.

Plymouth-sound, Oct. 17.

Around the Fair whose converse for a day
Would India's loss—the loss of crowns repay,
Your balmy wings, protective spirits, spread,
And o'er her frame salubrious incense shed;
To health restore whom Nature's hand design'd
To glow the feelings, and improve mankind.

Were I on the throne of St. James's, I
would sooner forego my crown than your

O 3

arms;

arms; but the consideration to which I lately adverted makes me still linger in the return you wish for. To prolong the supplies that are so painfully procured, I would yet extend the absence you complain of; but however I may accomplish the duties of *peaceful* employ, I am in no condition for discharging the requisitions of war, and the Druid is hourly expected to be ordered abroad: nor am I, should no hostilities ensue, to expect a longer continuance than would render my dismissal too late in the season for adverting to the only alternative of future recurrence.

Notwithstanding the latter considerations, my hand trembles at the application I am slow to supply; being never so distressed as when I lose the consolation of contributing to your necessary support. I am distressed the more because, in the necessity of returning separation, I shall be indifferent to consequences that would not be in favor of the country I have served,

served, or lose the faculties that have been so long discomposed.—In contemplating these possible events, I have often thought how far your presence might restore the serenity that could not be effected by medicinal prescription; while only your subsequent situation has concerned me for the sequel by which the public regret would be too lately excited.

I am sorry to write my dear Abby so unpleasing a letter; but I have sensibilities that are not to be described, and can only be always sustained in the perfection that has not been assigned to human nature.

W. R.

To Mr. RENWICK.

S I R,

Westminster, Nov, 14, 1787.

As the sums lately received bring us nearly upon a balance, we have thought it best to close the accompt, and send you a statement of it; which

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we

we hope you will find perfectly right.

We are respectfully, Sir, your most obedient humble servants,

THOMAS and WILLIAM MAUDE.

To the Right Hon. the LORDS COMMISSIONERS of the ADMIRALTY.

MY LORDS,

Druid, Nov. 15, 1787.

During the interruption of the public tranquility, I did not presume to solicit the indulgence of your Lordships. Peace being restored, I request to be favored with the longest leave of absence (to attend to my private affairs) which the pleasure of your Lordships, or the convenience of service, will admit.

In this application I need not urge the peculiar circumstances with which your Lordships are apprehended to be conversant, and in the alleviation whereof I am persuaded your Lordships will ever be ready

ready to extend the civilities I have formerly had the honor to acknowledge.

I am, my Lords, your Lordships humble servant,

W. RENWICK.

On his MAJESTY'S SERVICE.

S I R, Admiralty-office, Nov. 20, 1787.

Having communicated to my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty your letter of the 15th instant, requesting to be favored with the longest leave of absence from your duty, to attend your private affairs, which you can be indulged with; I am commanded by their Lordships to acquaint you, that the Druid being employed on service, you cannot be indulged with leave of absence for any considerable time, and that it is therefore necessary you should mention what time you are desirous to be absent.

I am, Sir, your very humble servant,

PHILIP STEPHENS.

On his MAJESTY'S SERVICE.

S I R, Navy-office, Nov. 24, 1787.

I am to acquaint you that Mr. Jameson is appointed to relieve you; and am, Sir, your most obedient servant,

R. GREGSON.

To the PARLIAMENT of GREAT BRITAIN*.

MY LORDS and GENTLEMEN,

At the close of the last session I promised to meet you, in another pamphlet devoted to the public service, on your return to Parliament. But being told that a knight of the bath has it in design to move the Senate to the consideration of what has already been advanced, and as you are likely to be much occupied in Oriental investigation, I shall for the present suspend the enlarged animadversions I have annually had the honor to resume.

* Transmitted to the public prints.

Mean-

Meanwhile, my Lords and Gentlemen, I am happy that the situation of the widows they include has been attended to, though not with the discrimination that was to be wished. Permit me to hope that an amendment will be made by increasing the pensions which are now become *stationary*, in a more favorable arrangement of the officers whom every age and country have held to be in the first line of professional respectability. This is apprehended to be essential to the general welfare of the community; and I am the more tenacious in the trust I have reposed, from the doubtful continuance of the public tranquility.

The Admiralty—so distinguished for the professional abilities of its supreme member—appears to be duly attentive to the national bulwark in the supply of *ships*, and I am hopeful that the extensive powers of the Senator who has undertaken the reform will provide *men* without any further violation of the constitution; yet I beg leave to add that the success of both will be imperfect

perfect without the conjunction of rewards and encouragements which the most respectable courts of literature * announce to have a previous claim to the attention of Government, and who affirm the grievances submitted to your consideration to be *a disgrace to this country*.—Such, my Lords and Gentlemen, is the natural tendency of an establishment which, though of the first importance to the State, has been shown to be only adapted for the attention of the most ineligible characters, and which Reviewers have observed must ever be “odious” to others. Hence the recent complaint to a Maratime Board from one of the highest departments of office, with other manifestations of the most impolitic parsimony that ever sullied the annals of empire.

“Every citizen,” says a great writer, “ought to be zealous for the public good.” I have not been an idle spectator of the

* Monthly and Critical Reviewers,

evils adverted to; and the subsequent criticisms evince the approbation of the tribunals to which I have referred.—“*The object of these publications are equally important and deserving of attention; and every humane reader will wish success to exertions in which the Author has a claim to the gratitude and respect of his country.*”

I am, my Lords and Gentlemen, your most humble and the public's devoted servant,

WILLIAM RENWICK.

To Mrs. R*****.

Plymouth-sound, Nov. 30.

This is the last letter my dear Abby will receive from the Druid. In the arrival of my successor I am dismissed from services that assign me neither immediate reward, nor the power of settlement to which my health and finances are equally unfavorable. The latter will afford but a short duration of the supplies I am anxious to continue; and dare not therefore anticipate

cipate the return that cannot avail you. I should also grow distracted in the necessity of resumed separation.

Yet I long to hasten where I can alone be happy. Not on our nuptial morning did I meet you with more transport than I should at the period that checks the inclination. It is only in your presence I can lose the shades in which I am bewildered. The pressure I have so long sustained is at last likely to overpower me. I am now on the verge of my fate, and it is only in my *hold of you* that I am kept from falling.

But how shall I overtake the comforts you are capable of bestowing? While I wish to soften my disquietude in your bosom, and to lose in your conversation the remembrance of the present hour, I cannot forget that such felicity is only to be attained in the combination of indispensable resources. But for parental cares, I had not so long contended with the pangs of absence, or been separated from
 charms

charms that might have given war to the world, and justified the most extended enthusiasm. But for such cares, I would not have lived from you a month to purchase the universe. — Your natural moderation would have made our reciprocal wants easy to be supplied; and while you shone refulgent in the humblest attire, the poorest fare had been enriched in the attentions of domestic love. Could I have known satiety, you had long been in the condition of those whose treatment you could not so well have borne. I know the tenderness and elegance of your nature; and that had Providence assigned you to some brutal authority, you had sunk beneath the cruelties or remissness from which, were I yet disengaged, I would be forward to protect you.

In the pending inabilities to which I have adverted, it were safer for me to be any where rather than in the center of power; and the more so, as calamity has taught me to believe that eventual occurrences

rences are only circumstantially criminal, and may be committed in perfect innocence. In the despondence occasioned by that calamity, I lose the temper that first procured me the favor of your esteem. My breast has long been the climate of tempests that are not always to be restrained. Were I now in the Assemblies I have annually had occasion to address, I could rage like the billows that continue to surround me; and forgetting the respect I have hitherto observed, precipitate attention when it was too late to obviate the sequel. If, to procure you the subsistence that were otherwise impracticable, I could brave the desert which beasts of prey were known to inhabit—I can feel no restraint in the councils of men, or in laws that were instituted for the intimidation of villains.

Let those whom Nature has estranged to similar sensations, talk of philosophy and fortitude; I have no claim to such misapprehended terms except in their

detached

detached application. I can resolve, however painful the effort, to meet even a continuance of the absence I would yet give the command of empire to terminate; but when I see you in the maternal situation I can no longer alleviate, and discharging the single servant I would multiply to a thousand attendants, I am ready to wish the extinction of mankind, and to realize the phrenzies of romantic story. While I write, I grow impetuous; and like Jaffier in the play, could perturb the tranquility of midnight with conjugal distraction.

Such impetuosity is not assuaged in the perusal of the play to which I have referred: for it is founded in the indigence that denies me the elysium of your arms, and in the necessity of claims that admit of similitude. Except in the association of conspiracy and the lunacy of friendship, there is scarcely a tender scene between the Venetian pair that does not appear to describe our own distress and attach-

attachment. In Belvidera, methinks I see your perfections and fidelity; and the sentiments I bear you, in the language of Jaffier.—Those scenes are the romance of poetry, and like manufactured *novels*, originate in fiction; but in the tale I am fated to resume, I feel the reality I dare not contemplate. If phrenzy consists in the emotions of sensibility, I am at this moment so frantic that I could commit the deeds that have ever been foreign to my nature, and lay the world in ashes for its partial distributions.

Excuse the tumults to which tears have afforded a temporary relief. It is for you they flow. I would not for myself kneel to the parsimony of power; but when I turn to *you*, I feel the weakness described in the tragedy.

— Take me to your arms,
And shew me where's my peace, for I have lost it.

W. R.



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